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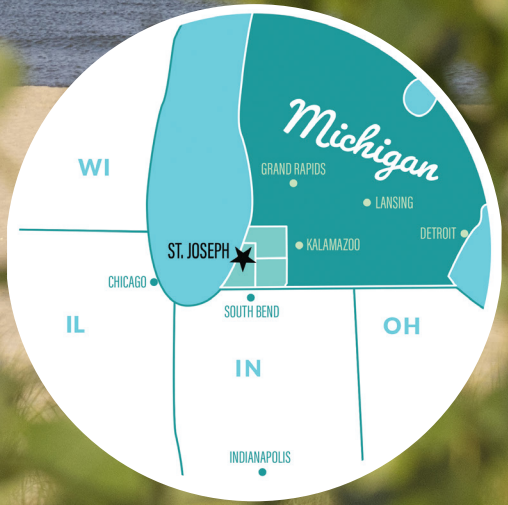
FREE

Southwest MICHIGAN

2025 OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE



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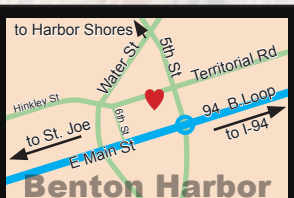

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CONTENTS

9 **OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**
- 10 Beaches
- 12 Recreational Activities
- 18 Golfing
- 22 Parks & Nature Centers
- 24 Best Sunset Spots

25 **FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN**
- 26 Thrilling Attractions
- 28 Silver Beach Center
- 29 Farms & Markets

31 **SEASONS & EVENTS**
- 32 Winter
- 36 Spring
- 38 Summer
- 42 Fall

45 **ARTS & CULTURE**
- 46 Creative Connections
- 47 Art Galleries
- 48 Music & Theatre
- 50 Museums
- 52 Food & Drink
- 57 Makers Trail
- 62 Social Districts

63 **PLAN YOUR EVENT**
- 65 Meeting Spaces
- 66 Weddings

69 **RESOURCES**
- 70 Wheelchair Accessibility
- 72 Sensory-Friendly Ideas
- 75 Pets
- 76 Tourist Council
- 77 Accommodations

ST. JOSEPH RIVER - ST. JOSEPH

WELCOME TO SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN!

Get ready to soak up the fun! Southwest Michigan boasts world-class beaches, award-winning vineyards, and over 40 amazing wineries, breweries, and distilleries. Golfers, you'll love our renowned courses like Harbor Shores Golf Club, host to the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship for many years.

Foodies, rejoice! From gourmet dining to hidden gems, we've got flavors to satisfy every craving. Families, your little ones will adore the Curious Kids' Museum, Silver Beach Carousel, and Whirlpool Compass Fountain.

This guide, brought to you by the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council and Far Ahead Advertising, is here to help you fall in love with our corner of Michigan. Escape, explore, and enjoy every moment!

Sincerely,

Glen Head
Publisher
Escape in Southwest Michigan

EXPLORE MORE WITH SWMICHIGAN.ORG

Southwest Michigan is bursting with things to do, see, and taste—too much to cover in this magazine. That's where the Southwest Michigan Tourist Council comes in! Our website, swmichigan.org, is your ultimate guide to planning the perfect getaway. From events to dining, activities to accommodations, everything you need is just a click away. For the latest updates, detailed listings, and everything you need to plan your adventure, head to swmichigan.org.

Your next great escape starts here!

Contact the Southwest Michigan Tourist Council

2300 Pipestone Road, Benton Harbor, MI (Conveniently located off I-94, Exit 29)

269-925-6301

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (ET)

Visit swmichigan.org Today!

Sincerely,

Marcy Simpson
Executive Director
Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council

COVER:
North Pier Lighthouse,
St. Joseph

ESCAPE IN Southwest MICHIGAN

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PLEASE NOTE
Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this guide at the date of publication, errors or changes can occur. Please call ahead and verify.

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The businesses found throughout this visitors guide are devoted to serve you. They are eager for you eat, drink, shop, stay and have some fun in Southwest Michigan. Please support these businesses and organizations if you can.

WHAT TO DO

Acorn, The 49
Berrien County Historical Society 50
Berrien County Youth Fair 64
Box Factory for the Arts 47
Creative Connections ..... Back Cover
Fantasy Carriage 77
Fernwood Botanical Gardens 23
Fruitful Vine Tours 62
Harbor Shores Golf Club 19
Indian Lake Hills 20
Krasl Art Center 46
Krieger's Wholesale Nursery 73
Lake Michigan Adventures 68
Pebblewood Country Club 18
Pedego Electric Bikes Harbor Country .. 26
Pier 1000 38
Sarett Nature Center 22
Silver Beach Carousel 50
Spa at Harbor Shores, The 21
St. Joe Today 32
Swiss Valley 27
Tall Ship MJ 55
Twin Maple Orchards 74
Woodlands Course at Whittaker 16

WHERE TO DRINK

12 Corners Vineyard 60
Gravity Vineyard and Winery 59
Maker's Trail 56
Red Top Winery 58
Round Barn Winery & Estate 61

WHAT TO EAT

221 Main Restaurant and Cocktail House .3
Azul Tequila Mexican Bar & Grill 36
Babe's Riverfront Bar & Grill 44
Barnstormers 48
Boulevard Inn and Bistro 54
Bread + Bar 2
Brick House, The 4
Buck, The 1
Caffe Tosi 64
Coaches 65
Copper Pot, The 3
Culver's ..... Inside Front
D'Agostino's Navajo Bar & Grille 43
Dino's Restaurant & Pancake House 70
El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant 44
El Sol Azteca 64
Getaway Cubbie Grille 72
Grand Crossing Bat & Grill 76
Grande Mere Inn 24
Henry's Hamburgers 74
Jet's Pizza 71
Joe's Cafe 79
Lakehouse Restaurant 34
Main Street Burgers Pizza & Ice Cream . 33
Mikey's Drive In 78
Nola Roux Casual Cajun Eatery 52
Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen 81
Planks Tavern on the Water 21
Popeye's 30
RyeBelle's Restaurant & Bar 8
Sandbar & Grille 30
Schu's Grill & Bar 68
Tim's Too 68
Tosi's Restaurant 40
Wally & Gertz 67
Wounded Minnow Saloon 67

WHERE TO LIVE

Anna Glassman, Realtor® 33
Coldwell Banker Anchor 11
Cornerstone Alliance 53
Molly Nate, Realtor® 66

WHERE TO SHOP

Christmas Tree, The 28
Falatic's Meat Market 68
Forever Clean Soap Works 71
Froehlich's Kindlemart Holiday Market .. 80
G & M Variety 73
Harding's Friendly Markets Bridgman 76
Imperial Furniture 30
Tackle Haven 32

WHERE TO STAY

Boulevard Inn and Bistro 54
Bridgman Inn 15
Coloma/St. Joseph KOA Holiday 13
Comfort Suites - Benton Harbor 35
Comfort Suites - Stevensville 35
Garden Grove Inn 74
Holiday Inn Express - Stevensville 74
Holiday Inn Express - St. Joseph 35
Inn at Harbor Shores, The 21
Monogram Inn & Suites 55
Silver Beach Hotel 35
Super 8 35

Three Oaks

Dowagiac

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OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Get ready to embrace the great outdoors in Southwest Michigan, where adventure awaits in every season! From hiking lush forest trails to kayaking serene rivers and tackling thrilling sand dunes, this region is a playground for nature lovers. Whether you're into fat-tire biking through snow, paddle boarding on crystal-clear lakes, catching a wave or simply soaking in the views from a vineyard, Southwest Michigan offers countless ways to connect with nature. So grab your gear, your sense of adventure, and come explore the endless opportunities to play, relax, and recharge in Michigan's natural wonderland.

SURFING LAKE MICHIGAN - ST. JOSEPH

BEACHES GALORE

THE TOP TEN Beaches

Southwest Michigan is blessed with some of the most stunning beaches you'll find. From the iconic Silver Beach in St. Joseph with its carousel and splash pad to the serene dunes of Warren Dunes State Park, there's a spot for every sun-seeker. Pack the sunscreen and don't forget the buckets for sandcastles!

New Buffalo Beach – New Buffalo
Just a short stroll from downtown New Buffalo, this year-round favorite offers sunbathing, swimming, a dune-top boardwalk, a play structure, a snack bar, and fishing on Lake Michigan and the Galien River. Winter visitors can sled the dunes or marvel at icy piers and shoreline.

Warren Dunes State Park – Sawyer
With 1,952 acres and three miles of sandy shoreline, this Michigan State Park gem is pure adventure. Climb towering dunes, hike scenic trails, or simply enjoy the breathtaking views. Come back in every season for a new experience!

Weko Beach – Bridgman
Set amid 42 wooded acres, Weko Beach features a modern beach house, boat launch, concessions, and rentals for kayaks and paddleboards. Stroll the boardwalk or take in lake views from observation decks.

Grand Mere State Park – Stevensville
Climb steep, towering dunes for the thrill of racing back down. The cycle of climb and slide is endlessly fun, making this park a must-visit.

Lions Park Beach – St. Joseph
Shady trees make this beach perfect for families. It's also a convenient starting point for walkers and bikers on the John and Dede Howard Family Recreational Trail.

Silver Beach County Park – St. Joseph
With 2,450 feet of shoreline stretching from the St. Joseph River to Park Street, this beach is a short walk from downtown St. Joseph.

Tiscornia Beach Park – St. Joseph
This 16-acre family-friendly park offers access to Lake Michigan and iconic views of the North Pier lighthouses in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor.

Jean Klock Park – Benton Harbor
This beach has it all: paved parking, boardwalk, volleyball courts, observation tower, pavilion, bathhouse, concessions, a playground, and picnic shelters.

Rocky Gap County Park – Benton Harbor
Perched on a bluff in Benton Township, this park offers panoramic lake views from its overlook deck.

Hagar Beach – Coloma
Picnic in the shade, grill up some fun, and let the kids play. Dogs on leashes are welcome on both the beach and in the lake.

What Type of Vacation do You Need?

With hundreds of fun ways to spend time in Southwest Michigan, it isn't always easy knowing what to include in your day. Lucky for you, our self-guided, multiple-day itineraries provide starter ideas and tours to some of our most popular activities and sightseeing locations. Plus, you will find some lesser-known local favorites as well. Learn how long to plan for each stop and when to call ahead for reservations.

Here's a quiz to help determine which itinerary might be best for you!

Do you want to add some family memories to the scrapbook where you can all find something fun? Consider our Family Fun Vacation.

Are you looking for your next vacation to be sans kiddos and reconnecting with the girls? Girls Weekend Getaway it is then!

Want to embrace all our outdoor activities? Peruse the Fresh Air Fun itinerary destinations.

Are you a fan of craft beverages? Always looking for local drinks? Then our self-guided Brew Tour or Food & Wine Tour is a must!

Visit online at **swmichigan.org/itineraries** for the full vacation plan and to explore other itineraries. Have fun! You can follow the suggestions exactly, blend the itineraries or plug in your own destinations.

Let's Meet in the Middle

Can't decide between a getaway to New Buffalo or St. Joseph? Why not stay in the heart of it all? Bridgman Inn offers comfortable, clean, and recently remodeled accommodations perfect for families, workers, students, and adventurers alike.

15 minutes to New Buffalo <--> 15 minutes to St. Joe
6 minutes to Warren Dunes <--> 4 minutes to Weko Beach

Updated spacious, sound-proof rooms.

Here's why you'll love Bridgman Inn:

Unique Amenities: Enjoy a seasonal 8' deep pool, fire pit, wooded nature trails, and an outdoor grilling area—amenities you won't find at just any motel!

Prime Location: Minutes from Lake Michigan beaches, scenic nature trails, and must-try local restaurants.

Sip and Savor: Perfectly positioned near wineries, breweries, and distilleries, with tours available for your tasting pleasure.

Spacious Comfort: Sound-proof rooms for a peaceful night's sleep, plus a large group room with a full kitchen for big gatherings.

Convenient Access: Located right off I-94 at Exit 16 in the safe, friendly community of Bridgman.

Whether you're here to explore Southwest Michigan's sandy shores or indulge in its rich food and beverage scene, Bridgman Inn is your ideal launchpad. Book your stay today!

Explore the wooded nature trails located on premises.

Enjoy the large outdoor pool in season. It's 8 feet deep!

Gather around the fire pit and make memories year-round.

Book now and experience the charm of Southwest Michigan!

Call (269)748-2002

Reserve your rooms early, they fill up fast!

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RECREATION

ENJOY BEING *ACTIVE* IN NATURE

BIKING

Attention all outdoor adventurers and cycling enthusiasts: Southwest Michigan is calling your name! Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-timer looking for a two-wheeled escape, this region has some of the most beautiful and accessible mountain bike trails you'll ever find.

Looking for a ride that's equal parts fun and scenic? We've got just the routes to add to your itinerary. And don't worry—mountain biking doesn't have to be an extreme sport unless you want it to be! Start with some easy, yet thrilling trails designed to ease you into the adventure.

So, grab your bike, your helmet, and a sense of adventure, and discover why Southwest Michigan is the perfect playground for cyclists of all levels!

- Kal-Haven Trail State Park – Bailey St, South Haven
- Love Creek County Park & Nature Center – 9292 Huckleberry Rd, Berrien Center
- Dr. T.K. Lawless County Park – 15122 Monkey Run St, Vandalia
- Chikaming Mountain Bike Trail – 8120 Warren Woods Rd, Three Oaks
- Andrews Trails – Campbell Dr, Berrien Springs
- Whirlpool Lakeview Bike Trail – 750 Monte Rd, Benton Harbor

LOVE CREEK NATURE CENTER
BERRIEN CENTER

FISHING

Southwest Michigan is an angler's paradise, offering year-round fishing opportunities. Whether you're after coho, salmon, steelhead, bass, or other prized catches, Lake Michigan and the region's rivers and lakes have it all. The New Buffalo Fishing Pier and the North and South Piers of the St. Joseph River are perfect spots for fishing without a boat, giving you access to both the rivers and Lake Michigan.

For those looking to reel in the big ones with ease, charter boats are a fantastic option—ideal for beginners and seasoned anglers alike. Don't forget: a fishing license is required and can be conveniently purchased at local sporting goods stores.

CHARTER FISHING
LAKE MICHIGAN

HIKING

Southwest Michigan trails lead you to breathtaking views, lush woods, and Lake Michigan's shores. Many are ADA accessible for everyone to enjoy. Here are some favorites:

- Kal-Haven Trail State Park – 34 miles between South Haven and Kalamazoo.
- Warren Woods State Park – Elm Valley Rd, Three Oaks: 311 acres along the Galien River.
- Warren Dunes State Park – Red Arrow Hwy, Sawyer: 3 miles of shoreline and 6 miles of trails.
- Grand Mere State Park – Thornton Dr, Stevensville: Dunes, lakes, and half a mile of shoreline.
- Royalton Township Nature Trail – Bacon School Rd, St. Joseph: Wheelchair-accessible trail with wetlands, prairie, and ravines.
- Van Buren State Park – Ruggles Rd, South Haven: Dunes, trails, and scenic sunsets.
- Van Buren Trail State Park – From South Haven to Hartford: 14 miles of multi-use dirt and gravel trails.

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Accommodations

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Ammenities

Family-friendly amenities! Enjoy an outside in-ground heated swimming pool (Memorial Day-Labor Day), jumping pillow, Gem Mining sluice, mini-golf and more. Each day our Campfire Cafe serves up specialty lattes, donuts, breakfast sandwiches, pizza, wings, snacks, and hand-dipped ice cream!

Recreation

Forty-acre wooded property! Stretch your legs on the wooded nature trail, or venture out to our Lake Michigan beaches, vineyards, orchards, shopping or dining all within a 10-minute drive from the campground.

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269-849-3333

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

KAYAKING

Southwest Michigan's waterways are perfect for paddling. From Lake Michigan's coastline to serene rivers, here are some top spots:

- Lake Michigan Water Trail – New Buffalo to South Haven: 50 miles of stunning coastline with dunes, lighthouses, beach towns, and sunsets. Launch from spots like New Buffalo Beach, Warren Dunes, Weko Beach, or Jean Klock Park.
- Galien River Marsh Trail – Paddle a peaceful six-mile stretch starting at Glassman Park in New Buffalo Township.
- Sister Lakes Area – Explore calm inland waters in Dowagiac and Edwardsburg. Paddle Magician Lake, Indian Lake, or interconnected lakes like Juno, Christiana, and Painter.

Where to Launch:

- Carronde Park Access – St. Joseph River, Benton Harbor
- Galien River Access – Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo
- Paw Paw River Riverside Access – Coloma Road, handicap accessible
- St. Joseph River Access – Niles Boat Ramp, Niles

Kayak Rentals:

- Doe-Wah-Jack's Canoe Rental – Dowagiac River
- Scooter Joe's Wheel and Water Rentals – St. Joseph
- Third Coast Paddling – Rentals for Lake Michigan, Paw Paw River, and Galien River

ICE SKATING

Several winter sports invite us to stay active in the cold months, but in some Southwest Michigan rinks, you can enjoy one of them year round — ice skating. Whether you need to shuffle through your first few steps or prefer to take off with a firm accelerating push, a fresh sheet of ice is waiting for you in more than one Southwest Michigan location. Both indoors and out! So, grab your skates, or rent them, and experience the best ice skating in Southwest Michigan. Then try some of the extra fun activities these rinks have to offer.

- John & Dede Howard Ice Arena – Outdoor NHL-sized rink in St. Joseph.
- The Garden Ice Arena – Year-round indoor rink in St. Joseph with ice bumper cars!
- South Haven Ice Rink – Covered outdoor rink downtown.

Love Creek Nature Center Berrien Center

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

When the snow blankets Southwest Michigan, the fun is just getting started! Cross-country skiing is your ticket to serene, snowy landscapes and an invigorating winter workout. Glide through miles of groomed trails that wind through picturesque forests, rolling dunes, and along the breathtaking shores of Lake Michigan. Whether you're a seasoned skier or a first-timer, you'll find trails suited to every skill level. Cross-country skiing here isn't just a sport—it's a magical way to embrace the beauty of Michigan winters.

Glide through snow-blanketed trails in these top spots:

- Fred Russ Forest County Park
- Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve
- Love Creek County Park (rentals available)
- Sarett Nature Center (rentals available)
- Warren Dunes State Park
- Kal-Haven Trail State Park
- Madeline Bertrand County Park (rentals available)

DOWNHILL SKIING

Ready to hit the slopes? Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboard Area in Jones is perfect for all levels. Open seven days a week, it offers rentals, lessons, and on-site dining.

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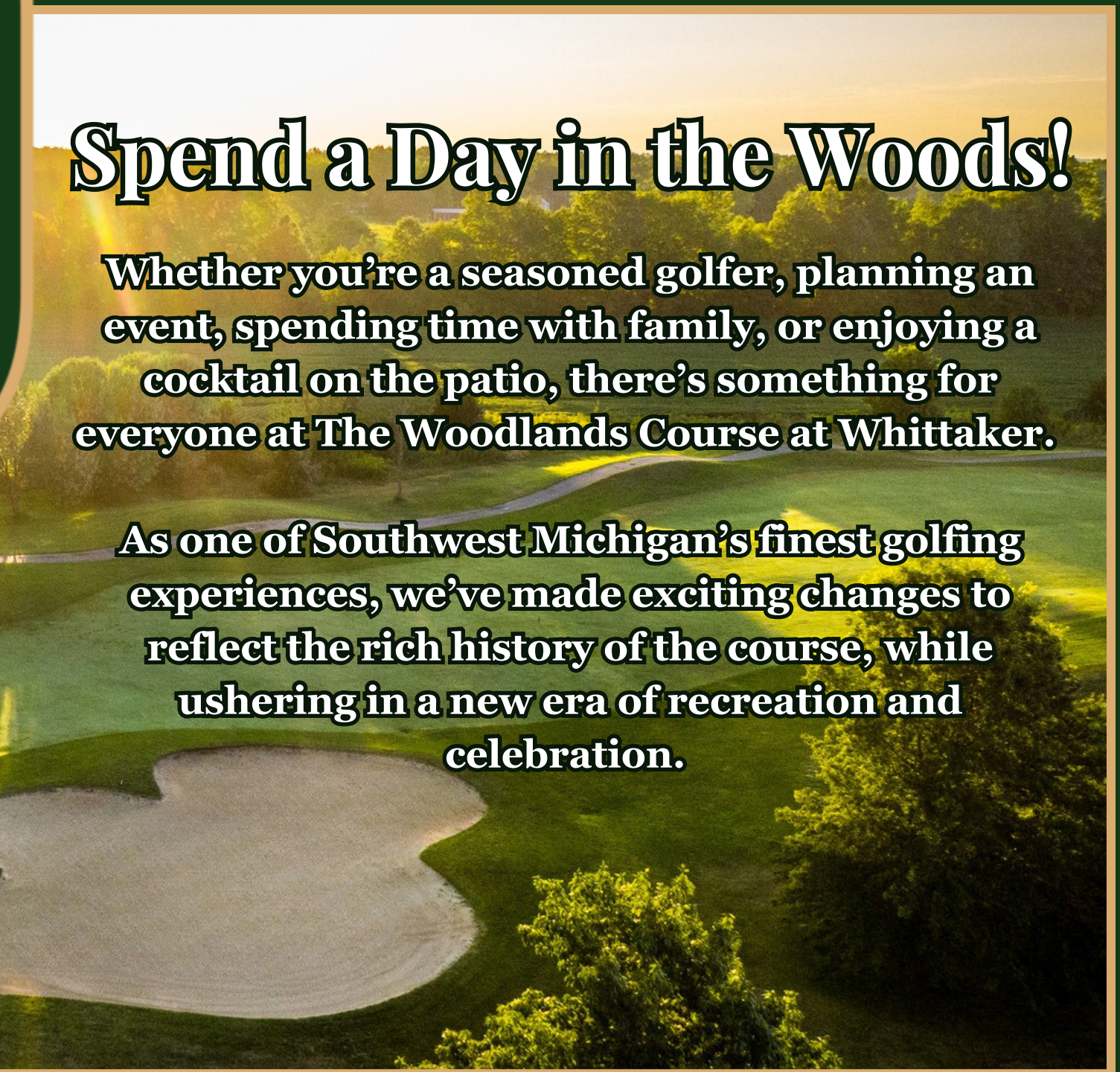

Spend a Day in the Woods!

Whether you're a seasoned golfer, planning an event, spending time with family, or enjoying a cocktail on the patio, there's something for everyone at The Woodlands Course at Whittaker.

As one of Southwest Michigan's finest golfing experiences, we've made exciting changes to reflect the rich history of the course, while ushering in a new era of recreation and celebration.

The Woodlands Course at Whittaker
12578 Wilson Rd, New Buffalo, MI 49117
(269) 469-3400 whittakergolf.com

info@whittakergolf.com
events@whittakergolf.com
proshop@whittakergolf.com

SWING INTO SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

TEE UP YOUR GOLFING ADVENTURES

Are you a golf enthusiast looking for your next favorite fairway? Southwest Michigan is ready to fuel your passion! For decades, this golfer's haven has hosted big-name amateur and professional players sinking pulse-pounding putts in championship tournaments. But the real treasure here? Over a dozen golf courses designed to make the game both fun for beginners and rewarding for those chasing lower scores.

Stay, Play, and Tee Off by the Water

Picture this: rolling greens framed by Lake Michigan, scenic rivers, and charming orchards. Southwest Michigan's golf courses boast a variety of terrains and designs that keep every game fresh and exciting. One standout is the legendary Harbor Shores Golf Course in Benton Harbor. As the only Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course with views of Lake Michigan, it's a must-play for golf lovers. Bonus: it was the long-time home of the KitchenAid® Senior PGA Championship. Call ahead to ask about stay-and-play packages, and while you're there, treat yourself to the resort's mouthwatering dining options and non-golf activities.

For another unforgettable experience, head to HawksHead in South Haven. This hidden gem offers special rates for overnight guests at the Inn at HawksHead, a beautifully restored Old English Tudor Mansion. Traveling with the whole crew? The recently built HawksHead Cottages provide the perfect base for a weekend of golf and relaxation.

From late April to October, it's easy to find your perfect tee time here. Thanks to its prime location, just 90 minutes to three hours from metro Chicago, Indianapolis, and Detroit, Southwest Michigan is a favorite escape for golfers looking to avoid the long waits of city courses. Bonus? The rates are competitive—often lower than big-city greens fees—and spring blossoms and fall foliage add a touch of magic to every round.

Check the local golf courses listed on page 20.

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HARBOR SHORES

Lake Michigan

GOLF BY LAKE MICHIGAN, SCENIC RIVERS AND ORCHARDS

Love to golf? Fuel your passion by playing in Southwest Michigan. For decades, big-name amateur and professional golfers have sunk breath-holding putts to win championships. But our sweet spot is our over a dozen golf courses that keep the game fun for learners and boost the confidence of players who strive each stroke to lower their scores. Here are several options that are close by:

BENTON HARBOR

Blossom Trails Golf Club - Family friendly course with 18 holes, plus a Par 3 course and full practice area. 269-925-4951

Harbor Shores Golf Club - This Jack Nicklaus designed course is home to KitchenAid Senior PGA Championships in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2024. 269-927-4653
(See ad on page 19)

Lake Michigan Hills Golf Club - Rated 4 Stars by Golf Digest, an 18-hole course with a Par 72. 269-849-4653

BRIDGMAN

Pebblewood Country Club - 18-hole public golf course. Golf on one of the oldest golf courses in the area, built in 1923. 269-465-5611
(See ad on page 18)

BUCHANAN

Brookwood Golf Course - A challenging 18-hole golf course famous for its character and challenge. 269-695-7818

DOWAGIAC

Hampshire Country Club and Dogwood Trail (36 holes) - The 18-hole Hampshire course offers gently rolling terrain, open front nine, wooded back nine. 269-782-7476

Spruce Ridge Golf Club - This 18-hole public course is laid out across 107-acres of rolling hills and tree-lined fairways, sure to challenge your game. 269-782-5827

EAU CLAIRE

Indian Lake Hills Golf Course - 27 holes on watered fairways with woods and orchards. 269-782-2540

Pipestone Creek Golf Course – Long open par-5s and a richly-wooded back nine make this the golf course for the rest of us. 269-944-1611

NEW BUFFALO

The Woodlands Course at Whittaker - Immerse yourself in nature as you take on woods, water, and sloping fairways. 269-469-3400

WATERVLIET

Paw Paw Lake Golf Course - A scenic Par 70 public golf course on the shores of Paw Paw Lake. 269-463-3831

Southwest Michigan isn't just a golfing destination—it's a golfer's dream come true. Grab your clubs, book your stay, and let the fun begin!

Year-Round Practice Makes Perfect

Rain or shine, you can keep your game sharp at Pipestone Indoor Country Club in the Benton Harbor Arts District. With top-of-the-line Golf Digest-ranked simulators, you'll feel like you're hitting the links no matter the weather. Whether you're a pro or just starting out, this welcoming venue is the perfect place to hone your skills.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN'S

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THE INN
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NATURE LOVERS HAVEN

Discover the Wonders of Southwest Michigan's State Parks
Ready to immerse yourself in nature's playground? Southwest Michigan is home to six stunning state parks, each offering a unique slice of adventure along Lake Michigan's eastern shoreline and beyond. From towering dunes to serene forests, these parks are waiting for you to explore! Grab your annual Recreation Passport (it works at all state parks!) or a day pass and head out between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Let's dive into what makes these parks so special:

Warren Woods State Park

Just seven minutes from Warren Dunes, this hidden gem in Sawyer offers 311 acres of pure tranquility. Wander through a magical beech and maple forest, and don't miss the half-mile trail that dances along the scenic Galien River. Pro tip: pack your camera for those post-card-perfect views!

Grand Mere State Park

For those who crave variety, Grand Mere delivers it all! With sand dunes, a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, wooded trails, and even ancient inland lakes left behind by glaciers, this 985-acre park in Stevensville is a natural wonderland. Whether you're up for a swim, a hike, fishing, or cross-country skiing in the winter, this National Natural Landmark is your go-to spot for outdoor thrills.

Van Buren State Park

Dunes, beaches, and breathtaking sunsets—oh my! Located near South Haven, Van Buren State Park is a sandy paradise where you can hunt for beach glass, explore woodland trails, or relax with your pup as the sun dips below the horizon. With campgrounds close to local shops and eateries, it's the perfect blend of nature and convenience.

Van Buren Trail State Park

Calling all trailblazers! This 14-mile dirt and gravel trail connects South Haven to Hartford, offering a peaceful path for hiking, biking, or even snowshoeing in winter. Start your journey at Hartford's Prospect Street trailhead or catch the trail from Van Buren State Park in South Haven. It's a must-try for adventure seekers year-round!

Kal-Haven Trail Sesquicentennial State Park

Ready for the ultimate long hike? This 33-mile trail takes you from South Haven to Kalamazoo without skipping a beat. Once a railroad bed, the trail now guides you through charming small towns and historic landmarks. Bring your bike—or fat tire bike in the winter—and turn your steps into stories.

Preserving Nature for You to Explore
Southwest Michigan is all about keeping its natural treasures safe and sound for future generations. Our nature centers and preserves protect the woods, prairies, marshes, bogs, and stunning Lake Michigan shores from development. They're perfect spots to connect with nature—think wildlife watching, birding, photographing wildflowers, snowshoeing, or simply soaking in the peace and quiet. Ready to explore? Let's dive in!

Love Creek County Park & Nature Center

If outdoor adventure calls your name, Love Creek is the place to be! Spanning over 100 acres of meadows, forests, marshes, and creeks, this park offers more than five miles of trails to hike or ski. In the winter, 1.8 miles are dedicated to snowshoeing, and 3.5 miles are groomed for fat biking. Don't have a bike? No problem! Fat tire bikes are available to rent, including two kid-sized bikes generously donated by Trek Bicycle of Granger.

Inside the interpretive building, you'll find a nature bookshop, classrooms, engaging exhibits, and a wildlife observation window that offers year-round glimpses of local birds and mammals. If you're a wildflower fan, plan a visit between April and October when the blooms are at their best.
9292 Huckleberry Rd, Berrien Center | 269-471-2617

Sarett Nature Center

For a dose of tranquility and some jaw-dropping views, head to Sarett Nature Center. With over eight miles of trails, you'll have plenty to explore. Wander boardwalks through wetlands, take in the scenery from observation platforms, or enjoy the barrier-free walkway for easy access.

The trails running along the Paw Paw River bluffs are a highlight, offering stunning overlooks of the river valley below. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or a casual stroller, Sarett's trails invite you to slow down and soak in the beauty of Southwest Michigan's natural world.
2300 N Benton Center Rd, Benton Harbor | 269-927-4832

VISIT SARETT NATURE CENTER

OPEN ALL YEAR
LOCATED IN BENTON HARBOR

- Hike on 9 miles of trails
- View the live animals in the nature center
- Play on the nature playground and adventure trail
- Visit the Butterfly House (June - September)
- Rent cross-country skis and snowshoes in the winter

AND MORE!

Hours:
Tuesday- Saturday
10 AM - 5 PM
Sunday
1 PM - 5 PM
Closed Monday

www.sarett.org
(269) 927-4832

Fernwood Botanical Garden

Nestled along the banks of the St. Joseph River in Niles, Fernwood Botanical Garden is a stunning oasis where nature and art come together. This 105-acre wonderland is a treasure trove of lush gardens, wooded trails, and serene river views that change beautifully with every season. Whether you're exploring the formal gardens, admiring the prairie restoration, or wandering the quiet forest trails, there's something magical at every turn.

Visit the Nature Center to learn about local ecosystems, enjoy lunch at the charming café with garden views, or simply relax with a good book in the shade. In the winter, Fernwood transforms into a wonderland perfect for snowshoeing. Don't miss their special events and workshops, which offer everything from gardening tips to nature-inspired art classes.

13988 Range Line Rd, Niles | 269-695-6491

Berrien County Parks

These country parks offer a variety of recreational opportunities, from beach outings to hiking and wildlife observation, showcasing the natural beauty of Berrien County.

Galien River County Park
Features a 300-foot canopy walkway and a 60-foot-high marsh overlook tower, offering stunning views of the marshland and river.
17424 Red Arrow Hwy, New Buffalo

Silver Beach County Park
A popular destination with a wide sandy beach, playground, and access to Lake Michigan, perfect for swimming and picnicking.
101 Broad St, St Joseph

Rocky Gap County Park
Provides a quiet beach experience with 1,100 feet of Lake Michigan frontage and an overlook platform for scenic views.
1100 Rocky Gap Road, Benton Harbor

Paw Paw River County Park
Offers trails, boardwalks, and fishing opportunities along the Paw Paw River in a serene natural setting.
650 N. Main Street, Watervliet

Madeline Bertrand County Park
Located on the east bank of the St. Joseph River, this park offers visitors a variety of outdoor activities.
3038 Adams Road, Niles

BEST PLACES TO WATCH THE SUNSET

Southwest Michigan knows how to put on a sunset show! Whether you're indulging in a family meal, spending a romantic weekend with your sweetheart, or enjoying an outing with your besties, these sunsets are the ultimate after-dinner treat. Think fiery streaks of red, orange, and gold lighting up the western sky. Ready to chase the perfect sunset? Let's go!

CONTESSA WINE CELLARS – Coloma

Wine and sunsets—name a better duo! Just off I-94 (exit 39) in Coloma, you'll find Contessa Wine Cellars perched atop a scenic hill on Friday Road. Sip on your favorite vintage while soaking in miles of gorgeous farmland views from the cozy deck or tasting room. Pro tip: Bring your friends and capture that perfect sunset selfie.

WARREN DUNES STATE PARK – Sawyer

Towering dunes and jaw-dropping sunsets make Warren Dunes a must-visit spot. Just south of Bridgman, this park offers a sunset experience like no other. For the ultimate view, climb Tower Hill—a sand dune standing 236 feet tall—and watch the sky paint itself in every shade of magic. The climb is worth it, and the run back down is pure fun!

A LIGHTHOUSE OR TWO – St. Joseph & South Haven

Southwest Michigan is blessed with not one, but two stunning lighthouses just 30 miles apart. In St. Joseph, stroll the lighthouse pier at Tiscornia Park or catch the view from Silver Beach County Park for a sunset that'll leave you speechless. Over in South Haven, the iconic round red lighthouse becomes part of the sunset spectacle, creating a picture-perfect backdrop for a family photo that's worth framing.

ENJOY YOUR SUNSET IN NATURE – New Buffalo & Niles

For nature lovers, Southwest Michigan has sunset views that are as serene as they are spectacular. Head to Galien River County Park near New Buffalo to walk the 300-foot canopy walkway, where you'll be treated to a glowing marshland bathed in sunset hues. Prefer a rustic garden vibe? Fernwood Botanic Gardens & Nature Preserve in Niles offers breathtaking sunsets surrounded by lush greenery.

WEKO BEACH – Bridgman

There's something truly special about a sunset at Weko Beach. Locals and visitors alike gather here to watch the sun dip below the horizon, but the magic doesn't stop there. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, a volunteer plays "Taps" each evening at sunset, creating a moment of reflection and gratitude. As the bugle's notes fill the air and the sky fades into twilight, you'll feel a deep appreciation for life, love, and the beauty of the moment.

MAKE YOUR SUNSET THE MAIN COURSE – St. Joseph, New Buffalo, Stevensville & Buchanan

Who says dinner can't come with a side of sunset? Dine al fresco at some of Southwest Michigan's top spots for sunset views:

- ***The Bistro on the Boulevard (St. Joseph):*** Overlooks Lake Michigan for a truly picturesque meal.
- ***Bentwood Tavern (New Buffalo):*** Dine by the water and soak in the vibrant sky.
- ***Grande Mere Inn (Stevensville):*** Enjoy cocktails and steak with a panoramic view of Grand Mere State Park. *(See ad below.)*
- ***LakeHouse Restaurant & Bar (St. Joseph):*** On the bluff between St. Joseph and Stevensville, enjoy stunning sunsets while dining outside or inside.
- ***Plank's Tavern (St. Joseph):*** Sip a beer by the marina on the St. Joseph River.
- ***Tabor Hill Winery (Buchanan):*** Raise a glass in the vineyard for a sunset you'll savor forever.

Whatever your dining style, these spots serve up the perfect blend of flavors and views!

From sandy dunes to cozy wineries, Southwest Michigan's sunsets are nothing short of spectacular. So grab your loved ones, your camera, and maybe even a glass of wine—it's time to chase the sunset!

Dining and Sunsets in Southwest Michigan
GRANDE MERE INN
5800 Red Arrow Highway (Exit 22, I-94)
Stevensville, Michigan 49127
Reservations please call: 269~429~3591
www.grandemereinn.com

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN

Forget the same old park—St. Joseph, Michigan, is a family playground full of surprises! From carousels and fountains to hands-on museums and outdoor adventures, there's something for every age and interest. Southwest Michigan is the ideal location for family trip.

CURIOUS KIDS' DISCOVERY ZONE - ST. JOSEPH

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

In Southwest Michigan, every day is a new adventure filled with fun, learning, and plenty of smiles! Plan your trip and create memories your family will treasure.

WHIRLPOOL COMPASS FOUNTAIN

Make a splash at Michigan's largest interactive fountain, where water sprays reach over 30 feet high and water cannons fire every 15 minutes. Just across the street from Silver Beach Center, this 200-foot-wide fountain is a favorite for cooling off on warm days.

SILVER BEACH CAROUSEL

Start your adventure at the Silver Beach Carousel. With 48 charming figures—horses, tigers, a hippocampus, and even a raptor—this carousel is a magical experience for kids and kids at heart. Enjoy thousands of twinkling lights, music from a classic band organ, and fun activities. Don't miss the **Silver Beach Amusement Park Museum,** where a detailed model of the old park, fun-house mirrors, and historic photos bring its 1892–1971 heyday to life. *(See more on page 28.)*

CURIOUS KIDS' DISCOVERY ZONE

Keep the learning (and laughter) going at this hands-on museum. Geared for ages 1–10 but fun for everyone, it features:

- **Lake Michigan Water Table:** Sail handmade boats through currents and locks.
- **25-Foot Lighthouse Tower:** Climb wave-shaped steps to the top for views of Lake Michigan.
- **Recollections Exhibit:** Dance and watch light and color mimic your movements on a giant screen.
- **Toddle Beach:** A safe, gated area for kids four and under, complete with a fun house and a boat to "steer" onto shore.

(See more on page 28.)

EDEN SPRINGS PARK

Step back in time at the House of David's historic amusement park. Ride miniature trains on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer. Seasonal train rides three weeks before Halloween and Christmas add a festive touch to your visit.

HIDDEN POINTE

Hidden Pointe packs plenty of action with an exciting 18-hole miniature golf course, go-karts on a 1,000-foot banked track, batting cages, arcades, and Eddie Cole's Jumpshot basketball. It's a one-stop spot for hours of family fun!

SLACKERS FAMILY FUN CENTER

For big kids and adults, Slackers offers bounce houses, laser tag, a laser maze, arcade games, and more. It's the ultimate boredom-buster and perfect for rainy days. With affordable pricing, you can have a blast without breaking the bank.

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AREA ATTRACTIONS THRILL ALL AGES

Lake Michigan steals the spotlight as our main attraction, but for thrill seekers and adventure lovers, there's plenty more to get your heart racing!

BENTON HARBOR

Eden Springs Park – Step back in time at the historic House of David amusement park, featuring miniature trains running on weekends during the summer. Special rides are also available three weeks before Halloween and Christmas. 793 M-139.

Hidden Pointe Fun Park – A seasonal, family-friendly destination with mini-golf, go-karts, batting cages, and Jumpshot basketball fun. 1062 Nickerson Ave.

BUCHANAN

Bear Cave & Resort – The only cavern in the Great Lakes area, Bear Cave features a 40-foot winding staircase where visitors can explore stalactites, petrified leaves, and unique formations. This 15-foot deep, 4–6-foot wide, 10–15-foot high cave is rich with history. Open May–October with an admission fee. Hours vary. 4085 Bear Cave Rd.

HARTFORD

Hartford Motor Speedway – Michigan's widest 3/8 mile dirt track, where the thrill of Friday night races heats up the summer. 301 Bowie St.

JONES

Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboard Area – With terrain for all skill levels, it's the perfect place for winter thrills. 13421 Mann St.

NILES

Niles Scream Park – One of the nation's top haunted attractions, this 44-acre park will send chills down your spine. Open in September. 855 Mayflower Rd.

ST. JOSEPH

Curious Kids' Discovery Zone – A hands-on experience where kids aged 1-10 can play, create, and learn. Located inside the Silver Beach Center. 333 Broad St. *(See more on page 28.)*

Lumberjax Urban Axe Throwing – Perfect your axe-throwing skills, or just let off some steam with axe throwing, a rage room, smash room, knife throwing, ninja stars, and a retro arcade. 2808 Niles Ave.

Tall Ship MJ – Experience intimate sailing with a limited capacity of just 6 passengers. 800 Whitwam Dr.

Silver Beach Carousel – Enjoy the charm of 48 hand-carved, magnificent figures, plus two chariots, inside the Silver Beach Center. 333 Broad St. *(See more on page 28.)*

Slackers Family Fun Center & Laser Tag – Family fun for everyone with laser tag, bounce houses, arcade games, and billiards. 1155 Vineland Rd.

Southwest Michigan Cycleboat – Pedal your way through the St. Joseph harbor with up to 16 people, enjoying stops at local bars and eateries along the way. 800 Whitwam Dr.

SOUTH HAVEN

Lake Arvesta Farms – Southwest Michigan's top adventure park, featuring a 4-lake Aqua Park, pickleball courts, and an 18-hole disc golf course. There's outdoor fun for the whole family! 06464 Arvesta Dr.

Michigan Maritime Museum – Discover the rich maritime history of the Great Lakes, with a special focus on Michigan's seafaring past. 260 Dyckman Ave.

South Haven Speed Boat Rides – Hold on tight for a high-speed ride aboard Stormin, the fastest passenger boat in South Haven, as you zip along the coast. 345 Water St.

SWISS VALLEY
Ski & Snowboard Area
Winter Fun Is in the Air
Swiss Valley is Southwestern Michigan's favorite learn to ski & snowboard destination! Offering mixed terrain for all abilities, you can be sure to find yourself having a blast all winter long. Swiss Valley offers 11 trails, 2 terrain parks, an award winning PSIA/AASI Snowsports school, and 100% snowmaking on the entire hill!
Learn to ski or snowboard here, ski or snowboard anywhere.
Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboard Area
13421 Mann St,
Jones, MI 49061
269.244.5635
SkiSwissValley.com

SILVER BEACH CENTER

WHERE *HISTORY* AND *MEMORIES* COME ALIVE

The Silver Beach Center is where history and memory making go hand in hand. The building — located below the bluff in downtown St. Joseph at 333 Broad Street — is home to the Silver Beach Carousel, Shadowland on Silver Beach and Curious Kids' Discovery Zone. One of the best year-round entertainment destinations, the Silver Beach Center is fun for all ages.

SILVER BEACH CAROUSEL

Make a lifetime of memories at the Silver Beach Carousel! Pick your favorite figure to ride from 48 magnificent, hand-carved figures and two chariots. Your heart will soar as you spin beneath 1,000 twinkling lights. Learn about the area's fascinating history from the 18 rounding boards circling above the carousel. Explore the fun-filled days of the Silver Beach Amusement Park (1892 to 1971) with the memorabilia filling the carousel house and attached museum. Or, grab a bag of fresh popcorn or cotton candy from the refreshment stand and listen to the happiest music on earth.

SHADOWLAND ON SILVER BEACH

This beautiful reception and meeting facility is just steps away from Silver Beach. Shadowland on Silver Beach is the perfect location for destination beach weddings and receptions in Southwest Michigan. The venue accommodates everything from small intimate gatherings to large weddings of up to 275 guests, with plenty of offerings to delight your guests on your special day.

CURIOUS KIDS' DISCOVERY ZONE

The Curious Kids' Discovery Zone entertains small children to fifth graders with its interactive climbing, water, tactile and traveling exhibits. It is a must-stop for exploratory fun. This space is geared for ages 1-10, but all are invited to come "play, learn, and be curious!" The kids will love the Lake Michigan Water Table, where they can sail handmade boats through the lake currents and lock system. Another favorite exhibit is the 25-foot Lighthouse Tower, encouraging little visitors to climb the wave steps to the top and gaze out the window to catch a peek of Lake Michigan. And check out Recollections, a wall-sized dance exhibit where light and color mimic your movements on the screen.

10 Tips for Visiting the Silver Beach Carousel

No trip to St. Joseph is complete without riding the Silver Beach Carousel. This local landmark celebrates our amusement park past while bringing the Carousel tradition forward for generations to come! Before you plan your trip, here are 10 tips for making the most of your visit to the Carousel:

1. Buy your tokens in bulk
2. Make time to splash and eat
3. Save room for refreshments
4. Learn about the Silver Beach Amusement Park
5. Bring quarters
6. Stay updated on events on their Facebook page.
7. Plan ahead for parking
8. Bring the whole family
9. Shop the Brass Ring Gift Shop
10. Do you still have questions? Ask a volunteer!

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WHERE FRESH AND FUN GROW TOGETHER

Did you know the same Lake Michigan that invites you to swim in its sparkling waters is also the secret behind Southwest Michigan's incredible harvest? Thanks to the lake's climate-tempering magic, this region is home to one of the largest varieties of fruits and vegetables in the United States. It's no wonder so many of our farms have been in the same families for generations!

Today, dozens of these family-run farms invite you to explore their orchards and fields. Bring the kids and let them see where their food comes from—then pick the freshest, juiciest strawberries, blueberries, peaches, apples, grapes, and more to take home. Looking for pumpkins to carve or a perfect Christmas tree? You'll find those, too, along with memories to last a lifetime.

Create Unforgettable Moments on the Farm

A trip to Southwest Michigan farms is more than just a grocery run—it's an experience. Imagine riding a hay wagon out to the orchards, laughing through a corn maze, or enjoying a picnic under the trees. Watch cows being milked and treat yourself to fresh, creamy ice cream afterward. Play a round of outdoor games with Grandma and Grandpa, or wander a pumpkin patch in search of the perfect one.

Whether you're picking apples in the fall, searching for the most beautiful Christmas tree, or savoring the sweetness of summer berries, these farm adventures will quickly become a cherished tradition for your family.

Harvest time

Wondering when to visit for your farm-fresh favorites? Use the harvest availability chart (check the green bars!) to plan your trip. But remember, nature can be unpredictable—always call ahead to confirm your favorite fruits, veggies, or seasonal delights are ready for picking.

COME & GET IT!	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
APPLES			■	■	■	■	■	
APRICOTS			■	■				
ASPARAGUS	■	■						
BEANS			■	■	■			
BEETS				■	■	■		
BLACKBERRIES				■	■			
BLUEBERRIES				■	■			
BROCCOLI			■	■	■	■		
BRUSSELS SPROUTS						■	■	
CABBAGE			■	■	■	■		
CANTALOUPE				■	■			
CARROTS			■	■	■			
CAULIFLOWER				■	■	■		
CELERY			■	■	■	■	■	
CHERRIES (SWEET)			■	■				
CHERRIES (TART)			■					
CHRISTMAS TREES							■	■
CIDER					■	■	■	
CORN (SWEET)				■	■			
CRANBERRIES						■	■	
CUCUMBERS (PICKLING)				■	■			
CUCUMBERS (SALAD)		■	■	■	■			
EGGPLANT			■	■	■	■		
FLOWERS (ANNUALS)	■	■						
FLOWERS (MUMS)					■	■		
GRAPES					■	■		
GREENS			■	■	■	■		
HERBS		■	■	■	■	■		
KALE		■	■	■	■	■		
LETTUCE			■	■	■			
NECTARINES					■			
ONIONS			■	■	■	■	■	
PARSNIPS					■	■		
PEACHES			■	■	■			
PEARS				■	■			
PEAS		■						
PEPPERS				■	■	■		
PLUMS				■	■			
PLUOTS			■	■	■			
POTATOES				■	■	■	■	
PUMPKINS					■	■		
RADISHES	■	■	■	■	■	■		
RASPBERRIES			■	■	■			
RHUBARB	■							
RUTABAGAS					■	■	■	
SQUASH (SUMMER)		■	■	■	■			
SQUASH (FALL)					■	■	■	
STRAWBERRIES		■						
TOMATOES				■	■	■		
TURNIPS				■	■	■	■	

COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKETS

Many local farmers bring their fresh produce, jams, cheeses, meats and baked goods to our weekly community markets. Before you come, check with your destination for updates.

BENTON HARBOR
Dwight P. Mitchell City Center Park, 184 E. Main St
mid-June to September
Wednesdays, 10am-3pm

BRIDGMAN
Open Air Market,
4509 Lake St
May to October
Sundays, 9am-3pm

BUCHANAN
In the Common
122 Days Ave
May to mid-October
Saturdays, 8am-1pm

DOWAGIAC
Division & Railroad St
June into October
Wednesdays & Saturdays,
9am-2pm

NEW BUFFALO
2 E. Buffalo St
Memorial Day to Labor Day
Thursdays, 4pm-8pm

NEW BUFFALO
Skip's European Farmers Market
16710 Lakeshore Rd
May into October
Saturdays & Sundays
9am-3pm

NILES
Front & Main St
Check Facebook for dates and times

PAW PAW
Gremps St & E. Michigan Ave
early July to early October
Sundays, 9am-2pm

ST. JOSEPH
Lake Bluff Park
May to October
Saturdays, 9am-2pm

SOUTH HAVEN
539 Huron St
June to August
Wednesdays, 8am-2pm
mid-May to mid-October,
Saturdays, 8am-2pm

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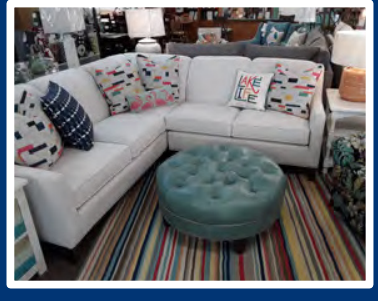

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SEASONS AND EVENTS

When is the best time to visit Southwest Michigan? This region is a year-round destination, offering something special in every season. Whether you love snowy adventures, spring blossoms, sunny beach days, or fall foliage, there's always a reason to visit.

BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR - BERRIEN SPRINGS

WINTER IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

YOUR ULTIMATE *WINTER* WONDERLAND

Sure, Michigan winters might have a reputation for being harsh, but here in Southwest Michigan, winter is absolutely magical. Picture this: shimmering ice formations on piers and lighthouses, peaceful snowy trails perfect for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or fat-tire biking, and cozy evenings warming up with local wine, cider, beer, or spirits. Winter might just become your new favorite season here—peaceful, stunning, and refreshingly quiet. So bundle up, and let's make some frosty memories!

Why Southwest Michigan Shines in Winter

Nature absolutely loves winter here, and you will too! Whether you're planning a romantic getaway, a fun-filled adventure with the kids, a weekend with friends, or even a solo escape, Southwest Michigan delivers.

- **Convenient Access:** We're an easy car ride from Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. And if you prefer the rails, Amtrak stops daily within minutes of our winter attractions and accommodations.
- **Snow Galore:** Thanks to Lake Michigan's lake effect magic, Berrien and Van Buren Counties average a whopping 80 inches of snow each winter, while Cass County sees about 60 inches. Prime snowfall happens from late January through February, but don't worry—there's usually enough snow from mid-December to mid-March to keep the fun going.
- **No Stress Driving:** Concerned about winter roads? Fear not! Our crews are pros at snow removal, keeping highways and county roads clear so you can explore without worry.
- **Play-Ready Temperatures:** With Lake Michigan moderating the climate, temperatures hover comfortably in the low to mid-30s—perfect for outdoor adventures from sunrise to starry nightfall.

WINTER EVENTS THAT WARM THE SOUL

Winter fun in Southwest Michigan is as natural as snowflakes on your eyelashes. Join us for these beloved annual celebrations:

JANUARY 2025:

- **January 31 - Chili Tour:** Grab a map and taste-test chili from local "Chili Stops" in downtown St. Joseph. Cast your vote for the best bowl of warmth! The tour start at 301 State Street.
  St. Joseph | stjoetoday.com/chili

February 2025:

- **February 1 – St. Joe Winter Beer Fest:** Sample craft brews from Michigan's finest breweries while catching up with friends. Buy tickets early, it sells out quick.
  Broad St and Lake Blvd
- **February 7-9 - Ice Fest:** Watch professional ice carvers create frozen masterpieces, enjoy a Fire & Ice tower, and participate in family-friendly activities in downtown St. Joseph.
  St. Joseph | stjoetoday.com/icefest

MARCH 2025:

- **March 7 - March Mannequins:** Stroll through downtown St. Joseph as storefronts come to life with volunteers posing as mannequins in themed displays. Vote for your favorite!
  Downtown St. Joseph | stjoetoday.com/vote
- **March 8 - Spring Artisan Fair:** Join the free indoor Spring Artisan Fair from 11:00a-4:00p at Union + Social!
  216 Court St, St. Joseph | stjoetoday.com/eventdetails/2025-spring-artisan-fair

Holiday/Winter events wrap up the year.

NOVEMBER 2025:

- **November 21 - Luminary:** Stroll through downtown St. Joseph as glowing luminaries light your way to unique shops.
  Downtown St. Joseph. | stjoetoday.com/luminary

DECEMBER 2025:

- **December 5 - Light Up the Bluff:** Kick off the holiday season with caroling, a tree lighting ceremony, and dazzling light displays that last through mid-February.
  Downtown St. Joseph | sjcity.com
- **December 6 - Reindog Parade:** Pets in holiday costumes lead Santa into downtown St. Joseph—adorable and unforgettable!
  stjoetoday.com/reindog
- **December 6 - Holiday Artisan Fair -** Join us for an indoor Holiday Artisan Market on Sunday, December 8 from 11:00a-4:00p at Union + Social!
  St. Joseph | stjoetoday.com
- **Santa's House:** Meet Santa himself on select days leading up to Christmas in downtown St. Joe

LOVE CREEK NATURE CENTER

BERRIEN CENTER

POPULAR WINTER ACTIVITIES

There's no shortage of ways to embrace the season in Southwest Michigan:

- **Cross-Country Skiing:** Glide through peaceful snow-covered trails.
- **Fat-Tire Biking:** Tackle snowy terrain in style.
- **Snowshoeing:** Wander through quiet, snowy landscapes.
- **Ice Skating:** Glide and twirl to your heart's content.
- **Surfing:** Yes, winter surfing is a thing—and it's epic!
- **Makers Trail Tours:** Sip on wine, beer, cider, or spirits at local craft destinations.
- **Creative Connections:** Dive into art and culture through workshops and performances.
- **Shopping:** Explore charming boutiques and unique finds.
- **Light Up the Bluff:** Stroll among dazzling light displays.
- **Ice Fest:** Celebrate all things icy and artistic.

Southwest Michigan transforms into a winter wonderland from December through February, and you're invited to experience the magic. From thrilling outdoor adventures to cozy nights by the fire, this is the ultimate winter destination. So grab your warmest coat, gather your crew, and start planning your frosty escape today!

10 Free Things to do in Winter

1. Admire nature's artistry on our Lake Michigan beaches with the frozen lighthouses, ice and sand formations and picturesque sunsets.
2. Go sledding, snowboarding and snowshoeing at Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer.
3. Walk or snowshoe scenic trails along rivers, vineyards and woods.
4. Go running on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Start and end at River St. Joe Brewery. All ages and levels are welcome.
5. Immerse in the magic of Light Up the Bluff displays in downtown St. Joseph from early December to mid-February.
6. Celebrate the season at holiday and ice carving festivals from early December to early February.
7. Visit Santa's House in St. Joseph on weekends in December.
8. Ride fat tire bikes over the wintry terrains on Lakeview Bike Trail in Benton Harbor and Andrews University Trails in Berrien Springs.
9. Inspire your creativity by playing the Creative Connections challenge.
10. Learn stories about our region's fascinating past at our museums.

FUN FACTS

Average snowfall:
60 to 80 inches

Average winter temperatures:
30 to 36° F

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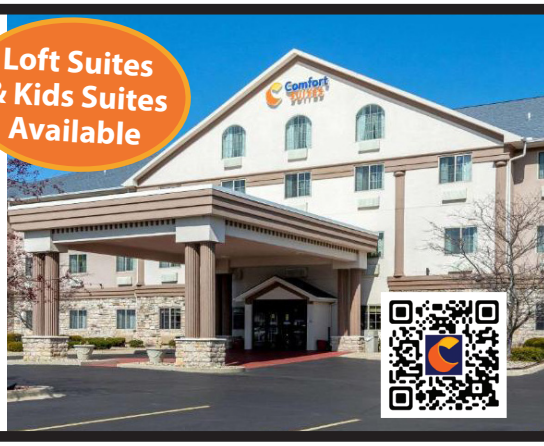

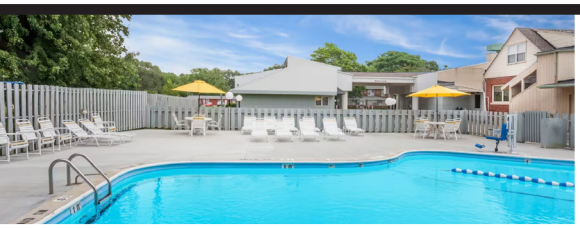

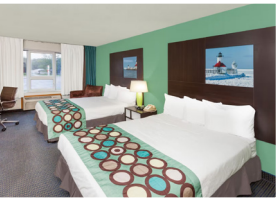

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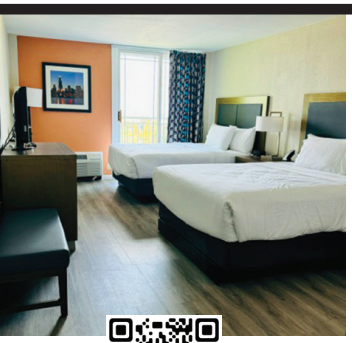

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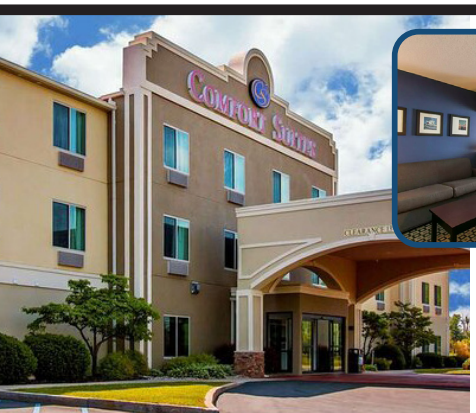

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SPRING IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

YOUR GO-TO SPRING DESTINATION

Ahhh, springtime in Michigan—it's like watching nature hit the refresh button. One moment, brisk winds are rushing through the dunes, and the next, gentle breezes are carrying the sweet scent of orchard and vineyard blossoms. Along the Lake Michigan shore, ice formations quietly vanish, replaced by roaring waves that crash against lighthouses, only to give way to a glassy, mirror-like surface reflecting a fiery sunset moments later.

Spring in Southwest Michigan is all about longer days, warmer weather, and the return of songbirds. It's the perfect time to grab your golf clubs, fishing poles, bike, or kayak and dive into the season's fresh energy.

SPRING BREAK, SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN STYLE

If you're planning a spring break adventure, Southwest Michigan is the perfect spot! Budget-friendly fun abounds:

- Take a ride on the **Silver Beach Carousel.**
- Explore the **Curious Kids' Museum and Discovery Zone.**
- Fly kites on our sandy beaches.
- Play Marco Polo in one of our hotels' indoor pools.

And don't forget to return later in the season to soak in the explosion of blooms in April and May. The **Blossomtime Festival** in Benton Harbor/St. Joseph brings vibrant celebrations to spring. Add to that the chance to find fresh-picked asparagus at roadside markets or treasures like crinoids and beach glass on the shore, and you've got the recipe for a memorable spring.

SPRING ACTIVITIES IN FULL BLOOM

Make the most of this vibrant season with these popular activities:

- **Blossom Tours:** Tour Southwest Michigan's stunning orchards and vineyards in full bloom.
- **Golfing:** Hit the greens under sunny skies.
- **Kayaking:** Paddle your way through serene lakes and rivers.
- **Hiking:** Explore trails waking up from their winter slumber.
- **Galleries & Museums:** Discover new exhibits before the summer crowds arrive.
- **Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade:** Celebrate spring with this timeless tradition.

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10 Free Things to do in Spring

1. Roll down the windows as you drive by acres of pastel-colored orchards on a blossom tour — breathe in the sweet fragrances.
2. Fly kites and find beach glass, fossils and colorful stones tossed up by the waves along Lake Michigan beaches.
3. Paddle for hours in your kayak, canoe or SUP on Southwest Michigan's rivers and lakes.
4. Hike scenic trails in the dunes, vineyards, woods and along rivers.
5. Picnic, play outdoor games and on playgrounds at city parks.
6. Ride bikes through St. Joseph's Victorian-era neighborhoods, along waterfronts and over the rolling hills of our verdant vineyards and orchards.
7. In early May, stake a spot along the Blossomtime Festival's Grand Floral Parade route between St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. This is Michigan's oldest festival.
8. See inspiring art at galleries throughout Southwest Michigan.
9. Discover the impact our area has made throughout history at our museums.
10. Spring offers exceptionally vibrant Lake Michigan sunsets — get front-row seats on our beaches and bluff parks.

EVENTS THAT SPRING TO LIFE

As the snow fades and greenery takes over, Southwest Michigan comes alive with new opportunities for fun. Here are some springtime highlights:

APRIL 2025:

- **April 13-14 - Mr. and Miss Blossomtime Pageants:** Over the course of two exciting days and evenings, more than 20 community queens compete for the coveted title of Miss Blossomtime, while gentlemen from each community vie for the title of Mr. Blossomtime. Contestants are judged on poise, interview skills, community service, communication abilities, stage presence, and personality. Sunday's pageant features the crowning of Mr. Blossomtime and a showcase of the community queens. On Monday night, one queen will be awarded the prestigious title of MISS BLOSSOMTIME. This cherished local tradition has been celebrated since 1906.
  Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center, Benton Harbor | blossomtimefestival.org

MAY 2025:

- **May 10; 1pm - Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade:** This beloved parade kicks off in St. Joseph, winding its way through the city, across the Bicentennial Bridge, and into Benton Harbor. Since 1923, this annual tradition has captivated visitors with over 120 vibrant entries, including marching bands, eye-catching floats, clowns, costumed characters, antique cars, and the legendary Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team. This iconic event is a can't-miss celebration. | blossomtimefestival.org

Springtime in Southwest Michigan is a feast for the senses—colorful blossoms, warm breezes, and endless activities to enjoy. Whether you're here for the festivals, outdoor fun, or a relaxing spring break escape, Southwest Michigan promises a season to remember. So pack your bags and head our way—adventure and beauty await!

FUN FACTS

The Blossomtime Festival is the oldest and largest multi-community festival in Michigan. The Grand Floral Parade is the "crown jewel" of the Blossomtime Festival and will be celebrating its 119th year in 2025.

SUMMER IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

YOUR ULTIMATE *SUMMER* ESCAPE

There's no better place to soak up summer than Southwest Michigan. Think crystal-clear Lake Michigan waters, miles of golden sand beaches, and towering dunes that beg for exploration. Spend your days sailing, touring century-old lighthouses, crafting sandcastles with beach glass and crinoids, or playing sand volleyball until sunset.

Prefer the inland vibes? Our sparkling lakes and rivers are perfect for boating, swimming, fishing, kayaking, or paddle boarding. Hike or bike along shaded trails, or explore our orchards and fields, picking fresh fruits, veggies, and flowers straight from the source—or grab them at our bustling farm stands.

When hunger strikes, enjoy alfresco dining with waterfront views or cozy up in restaurants tucked away in charming towns. Follow the Makers Trail to sip your way through craft wines, beers, ciders, and spirits. Add in live music in the parks, lakeshore theater performances, and golf courses for every skill level (plus mini golf and disc golf for bragging rights), and you'll see why summer here is unforgettable.

For family fun, let the kids splash at Whirlpool Compass Fountain, ride the iconic Silver Beach Carousel, or dive into hands-on STEM exhibits at Curious Kids' Museum and Discovery Zone. Even furry friends get to join in on the fun at our pet-friendly wineries, beaches, and trails.

Wrap up your day with Southwest Michigan's signature sunsets—brilliant scarlet and orange hues that paint the sky as the sun dips below the horizon. If you want to go big, visit our **International Dark Sky Park** to stargaze under a sky glittering with stars. Who knows, you might just catch a shooting star to wish on.

KAYAKS AND BOATS
ST. JOSEPH RIVER

WHY SUMMER IS A MUST-VISIT

Summer is our prime season, with perfect weather for lake adventures and vibrant events happening almost daily. From food festivals to art fairs, this is when Southwest Michigan comes alive. And don't forget to savor the freshest produce from our local farms—nothing beats the taste of just-picked cherries, strawberries, or blueberries.

Check out our Harvest Guide on page 29 to see what's in season and plan your summer foodie adventure!

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EVENTS *HEAT UP* EACH SUMMER

Make your summer even more memorable by adding these unique Southwest Michigan events to your itinerary:

JUNE 2025:

- **Lake Bluff Artisan Fair** (Select Saturdays): Shop over 50 vendors offering handmade home décor, jewelry, candles, and more. Fairs are held on select weekends, May through August. Lake Bluff Blvd, St. Joseph
- **Beginning June 29 - The St. Joseph Municipal Band:** The St. Joseph Municipal Band performs every Sunday from the last Sunday in June through Labor Day weekend, with special holiday concerts on July 4 and Labor Day. All concerts take place at 7:00pm at the John E.N. Howard Bandshell, 550 Port Street in St. Joseph MI. Performance dates for the 2025 season are: June 29, July 4, 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17. 24, 31, September 1. Catch these musical evenings at 7:00 PM along the waterfront—an absolute must for music lovers. John E.N. Howard Bandshell, 550 Port St St. Josephsjcity.com/community/page/st-Joseph-municipal-band
- **Friday Night Concert Series:** Free live music from jazz to classic hits, all with stunning views of the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan. Concerts run July 18 through August 29th, 2025. John E.N. Howard Bandshell, St. Joseph
- **June 21-22 - Lest We Forget Reenactment**: This free event honors our armed forces with battle reenactments, WWII aircraft displays, and Medal of Honor presentations. St. Joseph River, St. Joseph | lestweforgetusa.org
- **Farmers Market** (Saturdays, May through mid-October): Discover fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, meats, flowers, and more from local farms.

JULY 2025:

- **July 4 - Berrien Springs Pickle Festival:** Join for games, vendors, community fun and more. This three-week festival culminates on July 4, at the History Center at Courthouse Square and the Community Library in Berrien Springs. Bring the family for Vendor Alley, the Pickle Fling, Big Wheel races, old-fashioned pickle games, a relish eating contest and the Pickled Piper Tasting Room. It's a Dill-lightful time! Berrien Springs
- **July 13-14 - 62nd Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff**: Explore the creativity of over 170 artists while soaking in Lake Michigan's breezes and stunning views. Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph | krasl.org/art-fair
- **July 18 - Mike Yore Memorial Car Show**: Admire 150 classic cars lined along the bluff. Lake Boulevard, St. Joseph stjoetoday.com/mikeyore

AUGUST 2025:

- **August 1-3 - Chalk the Block:** Watch artists bring vibrant chalk creations to life on downtown St. Joseph streets. Downtown St. Joseph stjoetoday.com/chalktheblock
- **August 11-16 Berrien County Youth Fair:** Celebrate the 78th year of this fair with its "Fiesta at the Fair" theme. Enjoy exhibits, crafts, horticulture, and animals galore. Berrien County Fairgrounds, Berrien Springs bcyf.us

Summer in Southwest Michigan is everything you dream a vacation could be—and more. From outdoor adventures to culinary delights and unforgettable festivals, there's never a dull moment. So pack your sunscreen, bring your appetite, and get ready to make memories you'll cherish forever!

10 Free Things to do in Summer

1. Splash in Whirlpool Compass Fountain.
2. Relax at Rocky Gap County Park.
3. Every Saturday at dusk, July-August you can watch a family-friendly movie under the stars. Locations vary so check **stjoetoday.com/movies**
4. Watch the sunset at Lookout Park, one of the best views of Lake Michigan.
5. Explore the arts at Krasl Art Center and the Box Factory for the Arts.
6. Chalk the Block has artists turn the downtown streets of St. Joseph into a chalk masterpiece.
7. Walk the John and Dede Howard Family Trail.
8. Go for a hike at Galien River County Park.
9. Enjoy free concerts every Wednesday at noon July-August at the John E. N. Howard Bandshell.
10. Go inside the St. Joseph North Pier Lighthouse.

POPULAR SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Don't miss out on these must-try experiences:

- **Relaxing on the beach**
- **U-pick cherries, strawberries, and blueberries**
- **Makers Trail tours**
- **Creative Connections art experiences**
- **Kayaking and boating**
- **Hiking and fishing**
- **Chalk the Block**

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Northern Italian cuisine in Southwestern Michigan and our unique blend of traditional and modern culinary techniques promises a dining experience like no other.

Our menu offers various dishes, from our stuffed pork chops to barbeque ribs, airline stuffed chicken, and the classic filet mignon. And that's just the beginning. Seafood dishes, Lobster Arrabbiata, Fish, Shrimp Scallops. The variety is endless, and the choice is yours.

Join us at Tosi's Italian Countryside Restaurant – where you'll discover a warm-inviting setting and be treated just like family.

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AUTUMN IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

YOUR IDEAL FALL GETAWAY

When the summer hustle fades after Labor Day, Southwest Michigan slows down—but only in the best way. September still brings warm air and lake temperatures, so don't put away your beach towel just yet! The crowds have thinned, making it easier to find your own sandy slice of paradise or stroll peacefully along the shoreline.

As October rolls in, Lake Michigan puts on a show of its own—gentle waves one day and roaring whitecaps the next. It's a thrilling time to be by the water, soaking in the drama of this freshwater sea's ever-changing moods.

But the real star of the season? The vibrant colors. Fall's beauty begins at our century-old family farms and markets, spilling into our wine, beer, cider, and spirits. By mid-October, cool days and crisp nights transform the forests, dunes, and vineyards into a stunning display of amber, ruby, orange, and gold. Whether you're hiking, paddling, golfing, or simply driving, you'll be surrounded by nature's jewel-toned masterpiece.
It won't take long for fall in Southwest Michigan to steal your heart!

Spectacular Fall Color Routes

Get ready to be wowed! Autumn in Southwest Michigan means miles of breathtaking scenery splashed with rich hues of red, orange, yellow, and green. Drive country roads, hike wooded trails, paddle peaceful rivers, or stroll along charming sidewalks—no matter where you go, nature's artwork is on full display. From the dunes to the orchards, every corner of Southwest Michigan glows with fall magic.

HELPFUL HINT

Scan to view the Southwest Michigan Fall Color Guide

MILL POND
DOWAGIAC

AUTUMN'S HARVEST OF EVENTS

Harvest time in Southwest Michigan is bursting with activities that celebrate the season's bounty. Pick apples, pumpkins, or sunflowers at local farms, sip fresh-pressed cider at the wineries, or dive into the festive atmosphere of one of our many fall events. The crisp air and vibrant leaves add just the right touch of magic to every moment.

SEPTEMBER 2025:

- **September 4-7 - Antique Engine & Tractor Show:** One of the largest shows of its kind in the state, the Antique Engine and Tractor Show features hundreds of old farm machinery, demonstrations, parades, live entertainment, plenty of kids activities and more. All four days are filled with things to see and do for the entire family. You can munch on an ear of buttery sweet corn cooked in an old steam engine, watch tractor pulls, try your hand at the Flywheel Toss or sit down in the Stephenson Barn and listen to musicians play during the Moore's Jam Session. Hosted by the Michigan Flywheelers Museum in South Haven. michiganflywheelers.org
- **September 20 - Fall Fest**: All ages are sure to have fun at this celebration of autumn! Attendees will enjoy the Critter Barn, Balloon Twisters, a Farmers Market, Interactive Booths featuring local organizations and more.
  Downtown St. Joseph | stjoetoday.com/fallfest

OCTOBER 2025:

- **October 11 - Under the Harvest Moon Festival:** Dowagiac's fall festival celebrates Michigan's glorious autumn. Hosted by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce, this event showcases vendors of handmade and artisan product, Michigan-grown produce, antiques, and features activities for families. Downtown Dowagiac
- **Halloween Events:** From spooky to family-friendly, St. Joseph's Halloween happenings are not to be missed.

Fall in Southwest Michigan is seriously underrated—don't sleep on this vibrant season! With cooler weather, laid-back vibes, and the most delicious harvests, it's the ideal time to visit without the summer crowds.

FAVORITE FALL ACTIVITIES

Looking for ways to embrace the season? Here's what's on everyone's fall bucket list:

- **Colorful fall foliage tours**
- **Makers Trail tours (because fall pairs perfectly with cider and wine!)**
- **Apple picking and pumpkin patch adventures**
- **Kayaking or hiking amid autumn's beauty**
- **Surfing the waves (yes, even in fall!)**
- **Creative Connections with local art experiences**

With its cozy charm, delicious flavors, and stunning landscapes, Southwest Michigan is a fall destination like no other. Whether you're here for the colors, the festivals, or just a relaxing escape, you'll leave with memories as bright as the leaves. So grab your sweater, your favorite people, and head our way—it's time to fall in love with Southwest Michigan!

8 Free Things to do in Fall

1. Take a fall color tour
2. Hike scenic trails
3. Walk along uncrowded beaches
4. Paddle your way through autumn's beauty
5. Bike trails beneath brilliant foliage
6. Explore our creativity
7. Learn about our fascinating past
8. Stay over and enjoy a free gorgeous sunset on Lake Michigan

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RAINY DAY ESCAPES

Sunny days are hard to beat in Southwest Michigan, but when the weather decides to play hardball, there's still plenty of fun to be had. From hands-on museums to cozy taprooms and artistic adventures, here's a playful guide to keeping the whole family smiling—even when it's raining!

Curious Kids' Museum - Rainy days are perfect for exploring, and the Curious Kids' Museum delivers with over 100 hands-on exhibits designed to spark curiosity in kids (and kids at heart!). Dive into interactive fun that engages all the senses. With constantly changing exhibits, you never know what new discovery awaits! Admission is just $6 per person or $10 for access to both the Museum and Discovery Zone—a deal as sweet as the experience itself.

Makers Trail - Who says rainy days can't be toasty and tasty? Hit the Makers Trail and sip your way through Southwest Michigan's finest craft breweries, wineries, cideries, and distilleries. Cozy up in a taproom and let the award-winning flavors keep the weather blues at bay. Need more info? Flip to page 56 for all the delicious details.

Water Street Glassworks -Unleash your inner artist in the Benton Harbor Arts District! At Water Street Glassworks, you can craft something extraordinary—think molten glass masterpieces, beach glass jewelry, or even a metal garden sculpture. Classes are available for all ages and skill levels, but they fill up fast, so don't wait! Not in the mood to create? No problem—browse the stunning Doris Akers Gallery in the historic Hinkley Building for inspiration.

Krasl Art Center - Keep those creative vibes flowing with a trip to the Krasl Art Center. Open seven days a week and free to the public, it's the perfect spot to explore rotating exhibits by artists from around the globe. Feeling inspired? Sign up for one of their art classes or workshops to channel your inner Picasso. Don't leave without stopping by The Shop for unique gifts, jewelry, and home décor treasures.

The Acorn - Rainy days and live entertainment go hand in hand at The Acorn Theatre in downtown Three Oaks. This historic venue offers a lineup that's as eclectic as it is exciting—rock, folk, comedy, open mic nights, and more. Make a night of it by starting with handcrafted cocktails and delicious bites at Journeyman Distillery and Staymaker Restaurant, just around the corner.

Silver Beach Carousel - Who needs sunshine when you've got the dazzling Silver Beach Carousel? Take a whimsical spin on this iconic ride for just $3 per token (or save big by buying in bulk). While you're there, pick up souvenirs at the Brass Ring Gift Shop and explore the nostalgic Silver Beach Amusement Park Museum. Hungry? Dash across the street to Silver Beach Pizza and dig into their delicious Carousel Pizza, inspired by the figurines twirling next door.

Rain or shine, Southwest Michigan proves that fun doesn't stop for the weather. So grab your raincoat, your umbrella, and your sense of adventure—it's time to turn those gray skies into golden memories!

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ARTS & CULTURE

Southwest Michigan is a vibrant hub of creativity and inspiration, where art and culture thrive year-round. From captivating galleries and colorful murals to live music, theater, and community festivals, this region offers endless opportunities to experience and celebrate the arts. Explore hands-on workshops, discover local talent at artisan markets, and dive into a rich history showcased in museums and cultural landmarks. Whether you're a seasoned art enthusiast or just looking for a fun, enriching experience, Southwest Michigan's dynamic art and culture scene is sure to spark your imagination.

BOX FACTORY FOR THE ARTS - ST. JOSEPH

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

A FUN WAY TO EXPLORE THE CREATIVE SCENE

Creative Connections encourages people to discover Southwest Michigan's creative side by visiting stops along the regional arts and culture scene. These include theaters, interactive museums, a carousel, galleries and more. What's in it for you? In addition to rich cultural experiences and lasting memories, you can earn unique prizes for visiting participating locations. Check in at each one to reach 3 prize levels.

Whether you live in Southwest Michigan or are looking for something to do during your stay, Creative Connections is the perfect activity for the whole family, a solo adventure or a group of friends. Make plans to visit some of the destinations, check out the work of local artists, learn about our history and collect stamps to earn prizes.

We're excited to see people embracing our arts and enhancing their vacations with our rich culture!

Visit swmichigan.org/creative to learn more.

HELPFUL HINT

Scan the code to find helpful FAQs, game instructions, program updates and more.

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS 3 Prize Levels

Level 1: Visit 3 different destinations to complete.

Level 2: Visit 3 additional destinations to complete.

Hotel Level: Stay in one of our hotels after completing Level 1 or 2. Ask for a receipt to include as proof of your stay. Name on receipt must match name on creative license.

Grand Prize Drawing: Complete ALL three levels to be entered for a chance to win an all-inclusive two-night hotel package for two.

creative CONNECTIONS
Art & Culture of Southwest Michigan

COLOR YOUR DAY WITH MURALS

Why just paint the town when the town's already painted? Southwest Michigan's lakefront communities boast stunning murals created by renowned artists from around the world. Slip on your walking shoes and let these colorful works of art tell you their stories—perfect for selfies and strolls!

HELPFUL HINT

Scan the code to see murals and addresses to admire the local murals.

Love art. Make art. Experience art.
KRASL ART CENTER
707 Lake Blvd. St. Joseph, MI, 49085
Scan the QR code to learn more about art on view and classes.

THE WORKS OF ARTISTS ON DISPLAY

The region is a vibrant destination where art and inspiration come alive. From renowned art museums to charming local galleries, the region is a treasure trove for art lovers and those seeking a creative escape. Here are some must-visit art museums and galleries:

ARS Gallery Arts and Culture Center
Located in the Benton Harbor Arts District this gallery offers a variety of workshops, classes, and events for people of all ages.
147 5th St. Benton Harbor | 269-363-4740

Box Factory for the Arts
A historic factory turned arts center offering galleries, artist studios, live performances, and classes in a welcoming creative space.
1101 Broad St, St. Joseph | 269-983-3688

Krasl Art Center
A nonprofit museum featuring diverse exhibitions, outdoor sculptures, and engaging art programs that connect the community to the power of creativity.
707 Lake Blvd, St. Joseph | 269-983-0271

Judy Ferrara Gallery
A sophisticated gallery highlighting contemporary works from regional and national artists in an inspiring setting.
16 S Elm St, Three Oaks | 269-756-9338

Local Color Gallery
An eclectic gallery featuring paintings, sculptures, and jewelry created by talented local artists.
16187 Red Arrow Hwy, Union Pier | 269-469-5332

Chartreuse Art Gallery
A co-op gallery showcasing a variety of artistic styles and mediums, from photography and ceramics to mixed media and textiles, all by local artists.
304 State St, St. Joseph | 269-983-0931

Water Street Glassworks
A unique gallery and studio in the Benton Harbor Arts District specializing in glass art and metalwork, with live demonstrations and classes.
140 Water St, Benton Harbor | 269-925-5555

From sculpture gardens to cozy galleries tucked into charming small towns, Berrien County is a celebration of artistry in all its forms. Whether you're a casual admirer or an avid collector, this creative haven invites you to explore, experience, and be inspired.

ARS Gallery Arts & Culture Center Benton Harbor

BOX FACTORY
FOR THE ARTS
nurturing the arts and creativity

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS
REGIONAL ART EXHIBITIONS
CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

1101 Broad Street • St. Joseph MI 49085
boxfactoryforthearts.org • 269.983.3688
/BoxFactoryArts • /box.factory.arts

MUSIC & THEATRE

TUNES, TALENT, AND STAGE

Whatever your vibe—live music, theater, comedy, or dance—Southwest Michigan's got it! From **free concerts** (hello, Friday Night Concerts and Sunday St. Joseph Municipal Band performances) to **clubs and cafes buzzing with live gigs,** the region's entertainment scene is alive and thriving.

BENTON HARBOR

The GhostLight Theatre -Located in the Benton Harbor Arts District, The GhostLight Theatre seeks to illuminate the arts and culture of SW Michigan through the Theatre Arts. It is a collaboration of local performing artists, business people, arts supporters, and enthusiastic audience members. 101 Hinkley St.

The Lake Michigan College Mendel Center - The region's premier location for events, weddings, meetings, and performing arts. The Mendel Center hosts more than 40,000 annual visitors. 2755 E Napier Ave.

BERRIEN SPRINGS

The Howard Performing Arts Center - An elite acoustical facility designed for the performance of classical music. The Howard has hosted several world-class performers from the international classical circuit. 4160 E Campus Circle Dr.

DOWAGIAC

The Beckwith Theatre Company - Its beginning dates back to the turn of the century. Productions include dramas, comedies, musicals, and even a bit of Shakespeare. 100 New York Ave.

NEW BUFFALO

Silver Creek Event Center at Four Winds Casino - Catch the greatest names in show business at Four Winds' Silver Creek Event Center. From rock to country to stand-up comedy, Silver Creek has a show for you. 11111 Wilson Rd.

ST. JOSEPH

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra (SMSO) - Let the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra fill your summer with iconic American melodies: from patriotic to cinematic, all on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Twin City Players - Formed in 1932, Twin City Players is a volunteer based nonprofit organization that strives to engage the community in quality theatre that changes lives and to be recognized for organizational excellence producing quality performances in southwest Michigan. 600 Glenlord Rd.

THREE OAKS

The Acorn - A rare and remarkable performing arts venue presenting high-quality, professional live entertainment. Performers of incomparable talent delight audiences year-round in an acoustically rich and unique space. 107 Generations Dr.

Vickers Theatre - Experience our intimate theatre and art gallery and enjoy a unique movie-going experience of independent, documentaries, popular movies, and foreign and foreign language films that will open your minds, enrich your lives and entertain your spirit. 6 N Elm St.

MUSIC IN THE AIR

Clubs and cafes in Southwest Michigan are filled with the invigorating vibe of live music. Sandbar & Grille and Mickey's in St. Joseph, and The Livery in Benton Harbor feature local, regional and national entertainment on a consistent basis. A large number of restaurants, bars and cafes also offer weekend entertainment. If you prefer the more relaxing strains of music, we invite you to sit back and enjoy the beauty of music to your taste in our larger, world-class venues.

The Livery
Benton Harbor

The Acorn is a hidden gem with the best live events in Harbor Country. Top national acts. Regional performers. And rising stars. See them all up close and personal. Check out who's on stage this week.

We sell out fast. Buy tickets now.
acornlive.org/buy-tickets

the ACORN
THREE OAKS MICHIGAN
the one and only

MUSEUMS & HISTORY

ENCOUNTER THE *PAST* AND ENGAGE THE FUTURE

Museums aren't just for learning—they're for exploring, discovering, and making memories! Here in Southwest Michigan, we've got museums that will take you back in time, immerse you in culture, and spark the imagination of kids and grown-ups alike. Sure, books and the internet are great, but there's something magical about seeing history come alive, touching real artifacts, and experiencing hands-on exhibits.

From the Underground Railroad to Great Lakes maritime heritage, African American culture, and the region's earliest settlers, our museums offer a fascinating glimpse into the past. Have kids in tow? Perfect! Let them unleash their curiosity at our interactive children's museums, where they'll learn by doing (and having a blast). For transportation buffs, step into museums dedicated to railroads, vintage cars, and even amusement park history.

Here's the best part—Southwest Michigan's rich history and culture are just waiting to be explored. Plan to visit a few of these unique museums during your stay. You're guaranteed to leave with stories, inspiration, and maybe even a new favorite moment in history.

BERRIEN COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BERRIEN SPRINGS

SILVER BEACH® CAROUSEL
CELEBRATING 15 YEARS!
Memories in Motion
15 YEARS OF MAGIC
Be our guest this summer at the **Silver Beach Carousel,** where a whole new world of enchantment awaits. With each spin and sprinkle of pixie dust, moments transform into magical memories.
333 Broad St. • St. Joseph, MI • 269-932-1141 • silverbeachcarousel.com

Here's your museum guide to Southwest Michigan:

African American History & Literature Gallery
725 Broadway, Benton Harbor

Berrien County Historical Association
313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs

Bloomingdale Depot Museum
215 W Spring St, Bloomingdale

Curious Kids' Museum
415 Lake Blvd, St. Joseph

Curious Kids' Discovery Zone
333 Broad St, St. Joseph

Dowagiac Area History Museum
201 E Division St, Dowagiac

Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum
903 Bailey Ave, South Haven

Edwardsburg Historical Museum
26818 Main St, Edwardsburg

Heddon Museum
115 S Front St, Dowagiac

James E. Bonine House
18970 M-60, Vandalia

Michigan Flywheelers Museum
06285 68th St, South Haven

Morton House Museum
501 Territorial Rd, Benton Harbor

New Buffalo Railroad Museum
530 S Whittaker St, New Buffalo

Niles History Center
508 E Main St, Niles

North Berrien Historical Museum
300 Coloma Ave, Coloma

Pioneer Log Cabin Museum
400 S Broadway St, Cassopolis

Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum
Andrews University, 9047 Old US 31, Berrien Springs

The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center
606 Ship St, St. Joseph

The Mitten Children's Museum
246 Broadway St, South Haven

The Old Rugged Cross Foundation
61041 Vermont St, Pokagon

Underground Railroad Society of Cass County
18970 M-60, Vandalia

From history buffs to curious kiddos, there's a museum for everyone in Southwest Michigan. So, what are you waiting for? Dive into our stories, celebrate our culture, and create memories you'll treasure forever!

The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center St. Joseph

History Center at Courthouse Square
Berrien County Historical Association

50th Anniversary

her story

his story

their story

our story

Start your story at the

History Center at Courthouse Square

THE ART OF FINE FOOD & DRINK

Southwest Michigan is a food and drink lover's paradise, offering a delicious blend of culinary experiences and craft beverages. From farm-to-table restaurants serving up locally sourced delights to award-winning wineries, craft breweries, cideries, and distilleries, there's something to satisfy every palate. Sip your way along the Makers Trail, indulge in seasonal specialties, and enjoy breathtaking views from vineyard patios or waterfront dining spots. Whether you're craving a hearty meal, a crisp glass of wine, or a flight of craft beer, Southwest Michigan's vibrant food and drink scene promises to delight.

The Copper Pot
St. Joseph

THE BUCK
ST. JOSEPH

NOLA ROUX
casual cajun eatery

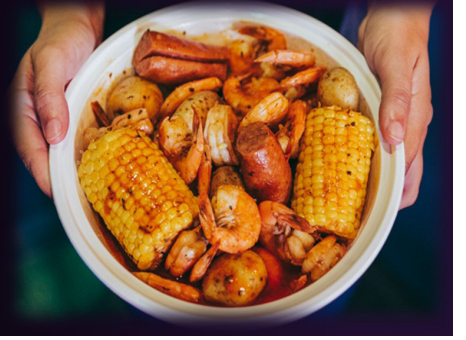
Jambalaya Seafood Gumbo Shrimp Po' Boys
Seafood Boils Muffalettas Red Beans n Rice

Saint Joseph MI
2809 Niles Ave
269-487-9577

Let The Good Times Roll!

Watervliet MI
8567 Red Arrow
269-201-7012

FOOD TRUCK. PRIVATE BOILS &
EVENT CATERING AVAILABLE
NolaRouxEatery.com



When you relocate to Southwest Michigan, our First Choice team will:

First at Cornerstone Alliance
CHOICE
Showcasing Southwest Michigan

Assist you and your spouse in navigating the local job market.

We'll introduce you to networking opportunities, key employers, and HR personnel so that you can can find meaningful and enriching employment opportunities.

Give you an insider's view of Michigan's *Great* Southwest.

Our local experts will take you on community tours that help you find the right neighborhood, schools, places of worship, and leisure activities for you and your family.

Help you build a sense of belonging.

Relocating isn't easy, but First Choice makes it easier so that you can start to feel at home before you've even unpacked.

Learn more at **GoMichigan.com**

"I was anxious about moving to a new city and finding a job in the biology field, but **with the help of Cornerstone Alliance, I found a position** in environmental consulting and have been able to kickstart my career here. They were an invaluable resource!"

-Edward

80 W. Main Street | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 757-0224

LOCAL FLAVORS & MEMORABLE MEALS

SAVOR THE *CULINARY* ARTS

Southwest Michigan's culinary scene is bursting with flavor! While you'll find your favorite franchise and chain options, the real magic lies in our one-of-a-kind dining experiences.

Here, chefs trained in New York City and Chicago work their magic, creating dishes inspired by local farms and paired with craft beverages or regionally inspired cocktails. Think decadent desserts, small plates, vegetarian delights, vegan treats, or perfectly grilled steaks—all tailored to your tastes. Many ethnic restaurants use recipes passed down through generations for a truly authentic experience.

Add in stunning views of Lake Michigan, the St. Joseph River, charming small towns, and welcoming staff, and you've got the recipe for a dining experience you'll want to savor again and again.

Find a full directory of our incredible restaurants on page 7.

RESTAURANT LIST

Southwest Michigan offers a wide variety of excellent restaurants Scan the code for a list of local restaurants ready to serve you.

HOUNDSTOOTH RESTAURANT
BENTON HARBOR

THE Boulevard INN & Bistro
BISTRO on the Boulevard
521 Lake Boulevard, St. Joseph, MI 49085 | 269-983-6600 | www.theboulevardinn.com

FOOD TRUCKS ROLL HERE

Why settle for an ordinary meal when you can grab something extraordinary from one of Southwest Michigan's food trucks? Whether you're enjoying the view along the bluff at Lookout Park in St. Joseph, soaking up the summer vibes at Warren Dunes State Park, or sipping craft beer at a local brewery, there's a food truck ready to serve up tasty eats. Keep an eye out at local events and festivals, too—Southwest Michigan's food trucks are always on the move, bringing mouthwatering flavors wherever they park!

The Brick House Food Truck

FOOD TRUCK LIST

Southwest Michigan offers a growing number of food trucks. Scan the code for a list of local food trucks

Made it to the beach...
Are you seeing this cool ship?
Where u at?
Girl! I'm on that ship!
...

Ticketed or private group sailing trips 3 times a day Thursday - Monday
Located in the marina of the Inn at Harbor Shores: 800 Whitwam Drive, St Joseph
Check it out at: www.tallshipmj.com Or text/call Captain Megan: 269-312-5451

MJ

TALLSHIPMJ.COM
Where Dreams Sail

Sail Tall Ship MJ – Like you, she's unique.

www.monograminnandsuites.com

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MONOGRAM INN & SUITES

(269) 876-7504
Bridgman, MI

MAKERS TRAIL

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CRAFT BEVERAGES

Southwest Michigan is home to some of the finest craft brewers, wine and cider makers and distillers. Enjoy our Lake Michigan beaches and downtown shops while sampling drinks in the same region their ingredients were grown in. With over 40 stops along the trail, you'll find something unique at each one.

Taste the liquid artistry and bring home your favorites to enjoy again and again.

MAKERSTRAIL.ORG

THE ART OF MAKING *EXQUISITE* CRAFT BEVERAGES

Southwest Michigan's artisans aren't just crafters—they're flavor masters. From popping corks at picturesque vineyards to tapping beer kegs and whiskey barrels, the Makers Trail is your gateway to incredible wines, beers, ciders, and spirits.

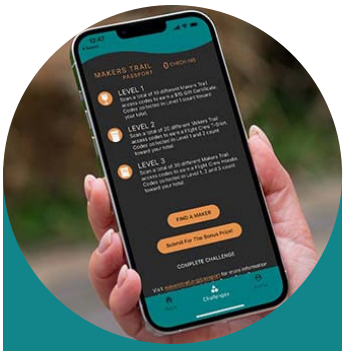
What's the best part? Each stop on the trail has its own personality, offering flights paired with local cheeses, grilled meats, fresh veggies, or chocolate truffles. With over 40 locations to explore, every sip tells a story.

Plan Your Trail Adventure:

- Download the Makers Trail Passport App: Collect stamps at each location and earn rewards!
- Map It Out: Use the app or grab a printed guide at participating locations or hotels.
- Taste More: Order flights to sample a variety of creations at each stop.
- Earn Prizes: Scan QR codes at each destination to unlock rewards.

Ready to join the Makers Trail Flight Crew? Visit www.makerstrail.org for all the details.

You can also map out your flight path using the Makers Trail Guide on the free app. Printed maps will be available at participating hotels and Makers Trail locations. Then, start visiting each location. Each destination has a distinct personality and serves specialties to showcase each maker's craftsmanship. Order a flight so you can taste more!



WIN PRIZES WITH YOUR MAKERS TRAIL PASSPORT

Collect digital stamps by scanning QR codes at Makers Trail locations to earn rewards with the Makers Trail Passport. Download your 2024/2025 Makers Trail Flight Crew Passport NOW! Then, taste your way through Berrien County visiting over 40 local wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries between now and April 30, 2025. The more you visit, the more passport access codes you can scan, the more rewards you can earn. Traveling the Makers Trail is fun, relaxing and a great way to find favorite craft beverages.

Once you visit a location, ask your server for their unique access code to earn that location on the app. They'll give you a QR code to scan. Each time you complete a level, your information will automatically be saved. It's that easy! Download it NOW to get started!

Download on the App Store

FREE DOWNLOAD

Download the app to complete your Makers Trail Passport.

GET IT ON Google Play

FREE DOWNLOAD

Download the app to complete your Makers Trail Passport.

BREWERIES:

Arclight Brewing Company
544 N Main St, Watervliet
arclightbrewing.com

Cassopolis Beer Co
139 N Broadway St, Cassopolis
cassopolisbeerco.com

Final Gravity
103 N Phils St, Decatur
finalgravitybrew.com

Ghost Isle Brewery
17684 US-12, New Buffalo
ghostislebrewery.com

Haymarket Brewing
9301 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
haymarketbrewing.com

Hill District by North Pier
107 Higman Park Rd, Benton Harbor
northpierbrewing.com/hilldistrict

Lake Time Brewing
4236 Lake St, Bridgman
laketimebrewing.com

The Livery Microbrewery
190 5th St, Benton Harbor
liverybrew.com

Niles Brewing Company
206 E Main St, Niles
nilesbrewing.com

North Pier Brewing Company
670 North Shore Dr,
Benton Harbor
northpierbrewing.com

River St. Joe
15475 Walton Rd, Buchanan
riversaintjoe.com

Round Barn Brewery & Public House
9151 First St, Baroda
roundbarnpublichouse.com

LOCATIONS

- Baroda
- Benton Harbor
- Berrien Springs
- Bridgman
- Buchanan
- Cassopolis
- Coloma
- Decatur
- Dowagiac
- St. Joseph
- Stevensville
- South Haven
- New Buffalo
- Niles
- Three Oaks
- Union Pier
- Watervliet

Arclight Brewing Company
Watervliet

Ghost Isle Brewery
New Buffalo

BREWERIES
CONTINUED:

- **Round Barn Winery, Distillery & Brewery**
  Baroda Tasting Room & Estate
  10983 Hills Rd, Baroda
  roundbarnwinery.com

- **Silver Harbor Brewing Company**
  721 Pleasant St, St. Joseph
  silverharborbrewing.com

- **Sister Lakes Brewing**
  92500 Co Rd 690, Dowagiac
  isterlakesbrewing.com

- **Seedz Brewery**
  16321 Red Arrow Hwy, Union Pier
  www.seedzbrewery.com

- **Transient Artisan Ales**
  4229 Lake St, Bridgman
  transientartisanales.com

- **Watermark Brewing Company**
  5781 St. Joseph Ave, Stevensville
  watermarkbrewing.com

CIDERIES:

- **Carriage House Ciders**
  920 North Shore Dr, Benton Harbor
  chciders.com

- **Peat's Cider Social**
  6201 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville
  peatscider.com

- **Thistledown & Row**
  103 Days Ave, Buchanan
  thistledownandrow.com

Peat's Cider Social
Stevensville

DISTILLERIES:

- **Free Run Cellars**
  Berrien Springs Tasting Room
  10062 Burgoyne Rd, Berrien Springs
  freeruncellars.com

- **Iron Shoe Distillery**
  3 North 3rd St, Niles
  ironshoedistillery.com

- **Journeyman Distillery**
  109 Generations Dr, Three Oaks
  journeymandistillery.com

- **Round Barn Public House**
  9151 First St, Baroda
  roundbarnpublichouse.com

- **Round Barn Winery, Distillery & Brewery**
  Baroda Tasting Room & Estate
  10983 Hills Rd, Baroda
  roundbarnwinery.com

GRAVITY
VINEYARD & WINERY

Escape the Everyday!

Everyday life is busy...
jobs, family, commitments;
we get it. Our goal at Gravity is
to help you Escape and Relax.

BARODA WINE COUNTRY

DOWNTOWN SOUTH HAVEN

www.gravitywine.com

WINERIES:

- **12 Corners Vineyards**
  1201 N Benton Center Rd, Benton Harbor
  12corners.com
- **Baroda Founders Tasting Room**
  415 State St, St. Joseph
  founderswinecellar.com
- **Baroda Founders Wine Cellar**
  8963 Hills Rd, Baroda
  founderswinecellar.com
- **Chill Hill Winery**
  8986 1st St, Baroda
  chillhill.net
- **Contessa Wine Cellars**
  3235 Friday Rd, Coloma
  contessawinecellars.com
- **Dablon Vineyards**
  111 W. Shawnee Rd, Baroda
  Dablon.com
- **Domaine Berrien Cellars**
  398 E. Lemon Creek Rd, Berrien Springs
  domaineberrien.com
- **Filkins Vineyards**
  6991 Ryno Rd, Coloma
  filkinsvineyards.com
- **Free Run Cellars**
  10062 Burgoyne Rd, Berrien Springs
  freeruncellars.com
- **Golden Muse Winery**
  8903 Stevensville-Baroda Rd, Baroda
  goldenmusewinery.com
- **Gravity Vineyard & Winery**
  10220 Lauer Rd, Baroda
  gravitywine.com
- **Hickory Creek Winery**
  750 Browntown Rd, Buchanan
  hickorycreekwinery.com
- **Lake Michigan Vintners**
  2774 E Empire Ave, Benton Harbor
  lakemichiganvintners.com
- **Lazy Ballerina Winery**
  321 State St, St. Joseph
  lazyballerinawinery.com
- **Lehman's Orchard Brewery & Farmhouse**
  2280 Portage Rd, Niles
  lehmansorchard.com
- **Lemon Creek Winery**
  533 E Lemon Creek Rd, Berrien Springs
  lemoncreekwinery.com
- **Moonrise Winery**
  7785 Hill Rd, Watervliet
  moonrisewinery.com
- **Red Top Winery**
  482 E Snow Rd, Baroda
  redtopwinery.com
- **Round Barn & Free Run Cellars Union Pier Tasting Room**
  9185 Union Pier Rd, Union Pier
  roundbarnwinery.com
  freeruncellars.com
- **Round Barn Public House**
  9151 First St, Baroda
  roundbarnpublichouse.com
- **Round Barn Winery**
  10983 Hills Rd, Baroda
  roundbarnwinery.com
- **St. Julian Winery Union Pier Tasting Room**
  9145 Union Pier Rd, Union Pier
  stjulian.com
- **Tabor Hill Winery Champagne Cellar**
  10243 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
  taborhill.com
- **Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant**
  185 Mount Tabor Rd, Buchanan
  taborhill.com
- **Vineyard 2121 Winery & Tasting Room**
  4110 Red Arrow Hwy, Benton Harbor
  vineyard2121.com
- **White Pine Winery**
  317 State St, St. Joseph
  whitepinewinery.com

YOU'RE INVITED...

to spend your day with us!

USA TODAY 10BEST

ROUND BARN
WINERY & ESTATE

TABOR HILL WINERY
& RESTAURANT

ROUND BARN BREWERY
& PUBLIC HOUSE

TABOR HILL
WEDDINGS

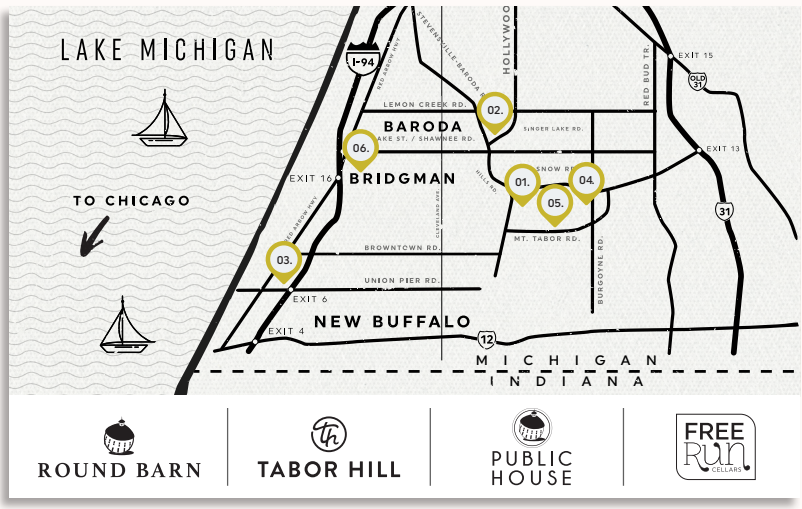
MT TABOR TRAILS

SIP + SAVOR
WINE TRAIL

wine • beer • spirits • food

Six unique stops featuring some of southwest Michigan's most iconic properties, perfect for a day, weekend, or anytime!

YOUR TRIP
STARTS HERE:
Scan code or visit
MoerschHG.com/sipsavor



TRAVEL SAFE AND IN STYLE

Make your day of tasting along Southwest Michigan's Makers Trail both safe and stylish with transportation options that take the hassle out of planning. Sit back, relax, and let these local tour companies elevate your experience!

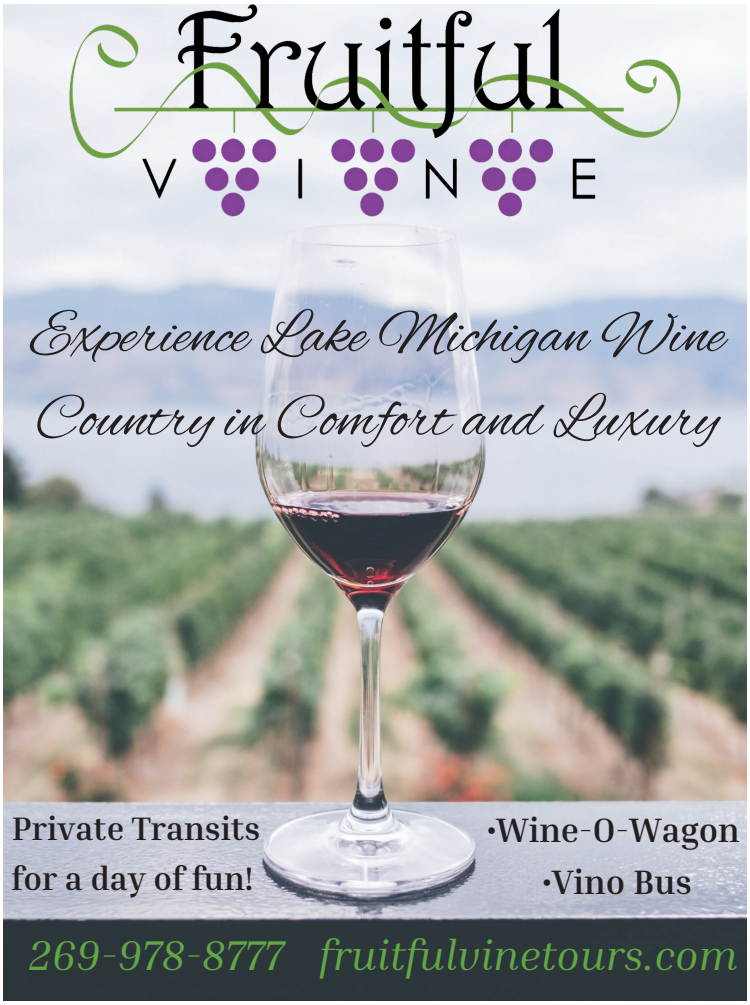
Grape and Grain Tours - Explore wineries, breweries, and distilleries with Grape and Grain's set tours or create your own custom itinerary. With something for everyone, it's the perfect way to toast the day!
269-231-0365 | grapeandgraintours.com

Hops Noggin Tours -Love craft brews, wine, and spirits? Hops Noggin Tours shares your passion! Choose from fun pre-set tours or build your own custom trip with door-to-door service for a stress-free day. Cheers to the ultimate tasting adventure!
269-921-1613 | hopsnoggin.com

Fruitful Vine Tours -When it comes to wine tours, Fruitful Vine does it best! Enjoy friendly guides, covered tasting fees, and unique rides like the comfy Vino-Coach or the charming Wine-O-Wagon pulled by vineyard tractors.
269-978-8777 | fruitfulvinetours.com

The Bottle Run -Gather up to 7 friends for a curated day of wine tasting! The Bottle Run takes you to three top-notch wineries with a pre-arranged pick-up and drop-off, making it an effortless and fun outing.
269-256-4487 | thebottlerun.com

With these transportation options, your Makers Trail journey will be as smooth as the wine you'll be sipping. Book your ride today!



SOCIAL DISTRICTS

CHEERS TO WALKABLE FUN

Social Districts are walkable designated areas where purchased alcohol is allowed and Southwest Michigan has four of them: St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, Bridgman, Niles, and Buchanan.

Within these districts you can purchase alcoholic drinks from participating businesses and consume them in outdoor common areas, which are marked by signage surrounding the district. This means you can window shop, enjoy walking around while waiting for your lunch or dinner reservation, and support local businesses. You can also enjoy the scenery throughout the downtown, spend time in downtown parks and take in the magnificent views of Lake Michigan!

HERE ARE A FEW RULES TO HELP YOU ENJOY THE SOCIAL DISTRICTS

- Anyone is welcome, but only those 21+ can purchase and consume alcoholic beverages.
- Purchases are made at participating businesses and cannot be brought into other establishments that sell alcohol.
- Finish your alcoholic beverage before you leave because these drinks cannot be removed from the Social District.
- When you finish you must toss the cup into a trash bin as the cup cannot be reused, even at the same establishment.
- Leave your drinks at home as they cannot be brought into the Social District areas.
- Drink responsibly and enjoy your time in Michigan's Great Southwest!

SOCIAL DISTRICT DO'S AND DON'TS:

- Do buy your beverage from a participating business.
- Don't bring your own drinks or reuse cups.
- Do drink responsibly and toss your cup in the trash before leaving the district.
- Don't take your drink into other establishments that sell alcohol.

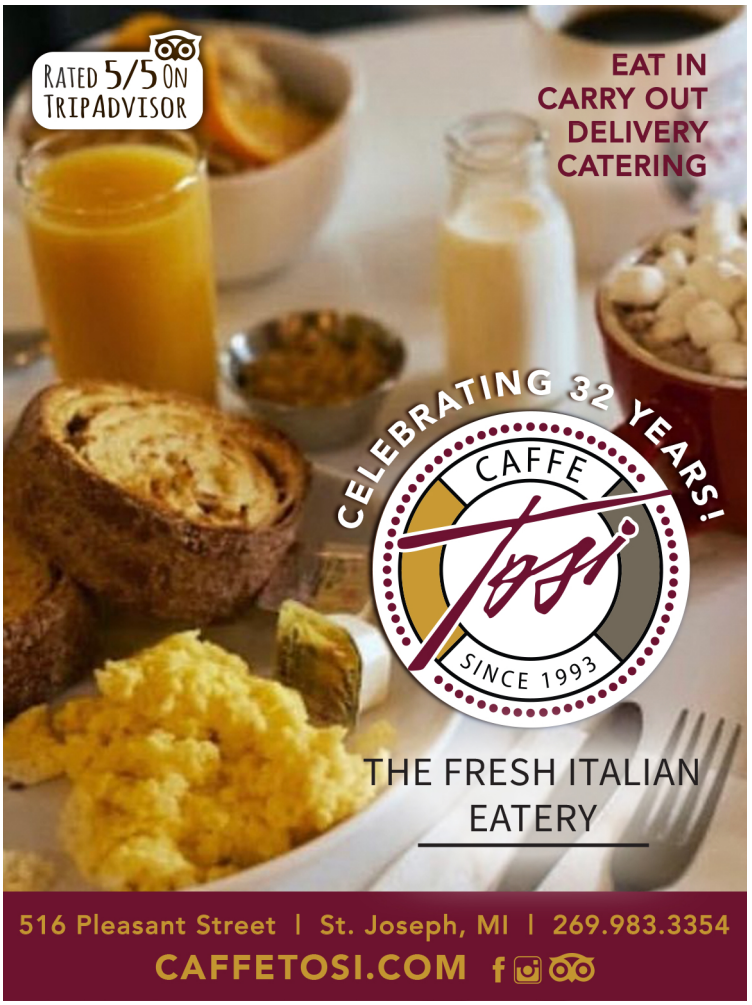
Drink, stroll, and enjoy the lively atmosphere responsibly in Michigan's Great Southwest!

From food trucks to fine dining, craft beverages to scenic social districts, Southwest Michigan serves up endless ways to savor the moment. So grab your appetite, gather your crew, and let the culinary adventures begin!

PLAN YOUR EVENTS

It's showtime! It's time to plan the perfect wedding or conference. Southwest Michigan has the views, the food, and the venues to make any event special. Make planning easy, the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council is eager to assist you.

TABOR HILL - BUCHANAN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CARRY OUT
DELIVERY
CATERING
CELEBRATING 32 YEARS!
CAFFE
Tosi
SINCE 1993
THE FRESH ITALIAN EATERY
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CAFFETOSI.COM

El Sol Azteca
THE BEST Tacos Carne Azada &
Fresh made Guacamole Daily
Scan to Order Online
Entertainment Every Friday and Saturday
4142 M-139 • St. Joseph, MI 269-429-3100

Berrien County Youth Fair
August 11 - 16, 2025
Fiesta at the Fair
Berrien Springs, MI
www.bcyf.org

FIND THE *PERFECT* SPACE

Southwest Michigan has everything you need to host unforgettable events—whether it's a business meeting, family reunion, or a celebration with your favorite crew. From waterfront views to rustic lodges, banquet halls, theaters, beach pavilions, and even outdoor spaces for large tents, the options are endless.

Site managers at each venue are ready to ensure everything runs smoothly. Need Wi-Fi, live-streaming, or A/V equipment? They've got you covered. Many locations offer free parking and are conveniently close to hotels, team-building activities, and entertainment options.

GROUP PLANNER

Please give us the details of your event for your group of 10 or more. We will reach out to area hotels, restaurants, entertainment sites and services, then provide you with choices that will enhance your plans and fit your budget.

HELPFUL HINT

Scan the code to launch the Group Planner. We'll do the research for you!

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SAY "I DO" IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

MAKE YOUR DAY A DREAM COME TRUE

You're engaged—congratulations! Now it's time to plan a wedding as special as your love story. Southwest Michigan offers stunning backdrops for every season, from Lake Michigan's golden beaches to intimate vineyard views. With vibrant resort towns, welcoming venues, and a wealth of activities, your wedding day will be unforgettable.

Reasons and Tips for planning your wedding in Southwest Michigan

- **More Dates to Choose** - Popular summer Saturdays book fast! Consider Fridays, Sundays, or off-season months like spring, fall, and winter for more flexibility.
  Tip: Lock in your date 18–24 months in advance.
- **Budget-Friendly Venues** - Many venues offer seasonal discounts. Ask about their off-peak rates to save big!
  Tip: Winter, spring, and fall dates are often the best bargains.

- **More Hotel Options** -The Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council offers a free hotel bid service to help you snag the best room rates for your guests.
  Tip: Off-season months mean better prices and more availability.
- **Availability of Vendors** - Local caterers, florists, DJs, and photographers often cost less than those in bigger wedding hubs—and they're just as talented!
  Tip: Book in the off-season to get your first choices.
- **Picture-Perfect Scenery** - Every season in Southwest Michigan offers jaw-dropping photo ops: pastel blossoms in spring, blue waves in summer, brilliant foliage in fall, and snowy wonderlands in winter—all with epic sunsets.
- **Fun for Guests** - Your guests will love the activities here—golf, kayaking, fishing charters, Makers Trail craft beverage tours, skiing, concerts, and more.
  Tip: Ask the Tourist Council for brochures and maps to include in welcome packets.

Find everything you need to plan your dream day at swmichigan.org/weddings.

BEST *BACHELORETTE* PARTY EVER!

When it comes to celebrating the bride-to-be, Southwest Michigan is a hidden gem. Whether your group craves relaxation, adventure, or a mix of both, this region offers a vibrant mix of activities to suit every style.

TOP BACHELORETTE PARTY DESTINATIONS

Makers Trail - Sip your way through over 40 craft beverage destinations, including wineries, breweries, cideries, and distilleries. Spend the day sampling local flavors—responsibly, of course, with a tour bus to shuttle you around. Between Labor Day and Memorial Day, use the Makers Trail Passport app to earn prizes for your visits!

Creative Connections - If your group loves the arts, explore Southwest Michigan's rich creative scene. Join a wine and canvas class, try your hand at glassblowing, or enjoy live performances. The Creative Connections Challenge even lets you earn rewards while you create or shop for local art.

Beach Bliss - Spend the day soaking up the sun on Lake Michigan's soft, golden sands, or watch the waves playfully crash along the shore. Too chilly for beach time? Don't miss a jaw-dropping sunset over the lake—nature's perfect finale.

Outdoor Adventures - Embrace the great outdoors with hiking, biking, kayaking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing. Whether you're forest bathing or hitting the trails, the region's natural beauty is the ultimate setting for fun and relaxation.

Shopping Sprees - Explore charming downtown boutiques, where you'll find handmade art, stylish clothing, kitchen goodies, and unique keepsakes to remember your trip.

HELPFUL HINT
Whether you are planning a wedding, party, reception, reunion, or company retreat, scan the code to view the many venue choices.
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RESOURCES

Businesses and residents of Southwest Michigan value everyone and want to make you feel right at home. Whether you are looking for a place to stay with a pet or you are traveling with a wheelchair, you will find exactly what you need.

CARRONDE PARK - BENTON HARBOR

ACCESSIBLE SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

BRING YOUR *WHEELCHAIR* HERE

Are you searching for a fun vacation destination that is wheelchair-friendly? Welcome to Southwest Michigan! This area does an excellent job of making ADA accommodations for wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches and service animals. So, come for the beaches, the attractions, entertainment venues, shopping, lodgings and so much more! Here's an overview of the fun that awaits.

7 ACCESSIBLE BEACHES

Along with seven wheelchair accessible beaches, four have free-to-use beach wheelchairs. Spending time at Lake Michigan is one of the top reasons to visit this beach resort area. Paved sidewalks, boardwalks, ramps and beach wheelchairs make it easier to be near the water. Our nine accessible beaches are:

Silver Beach County Park, 101 Broad St., St. Joseph. A barrier-free walkway from the parking lot runs along the beachfront and throughout the park. The walkway gives access to the Dunes Pavilion (a picnic spot), Shadowland Pavilion (an entertainment and wedding venue) and the South Pier. For easier access to the water during the summer, reserve a beach wheelchair for free at the office next to the restrooms.

Lions Park Beach, south end of Lions Park Drive, St. Joseph. This small beach offers barrier-free access to the picnic pavilions, each with great views of Lake Michigan. It's also a trailhead to the paved and shaded John and Dede Howard Family Recreational Trail.

Tiscornia Beach Park, 80 Ridgeway St., St. Joseph. It's tough to top this park's scenic views of the historic North Pier Lighthouse, St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan. Park near the beach and access the North Pier, picnic areas and restrooms.

Jean Klock Park Beach, Jean Klock Drive, Benton Harbor. If you don't want to be caught in crowds, this is a beautiful destination. Park near the picnic pavilion or restrooms for views of Lake Michigan, the dunes and the North Pier Lighthouse. This is also one of the access points to the 12 miles of paved Harbor Shores Nature & Fitness Trails that take you by Lake Michigan and the Paw Paw and St. Joseph Rivers.

Weko Beach & Campground, 5237 Lake St., Bridgman. Nestled in 42 acres of picturesque wooded dunes, this is a wonderful place to experience the great outdoors, relax and enjoy the soft, sandy beaches and refreshing waters of Lake Michigan. The park makes this easier for everyone with their sand-and-water accessible wheelchair that you can reserve at no cost from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., May through mid-September. Stop by the beach house to check availability. The park also has two 50-foot, ADA-accessible Mobi-Mats. The mat provides a smooth surface for moving wheelchairs, strollers and wagons between the parking lot and the beachfront.

Warren Dunes State Park, 12032 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer. It is amazing to see these towering dunes! You can reach this park's 3 miles of sandy shoreline with one of the two, free-to-use beach wheelchairs during the summer. You also can navigate some of the 6 miles of nature trails. A plus to this destination is its dog beach which is accessible from the northernmost parking lot. Keep your pet on a six-foot-or-shorter leash here and throughout the park.

New Buffalo Beach & Lakefront Park, 200 Marquette Dr, New Buffalo. A boardwalk extends from the parking lot to the concession area and toward the 800-foot beachfront. Another boardwalk creates a nature trail along the dune line. See the lifeguard for the park's beach wheelchair that gets you to the water's edge.

GO FISHING OR KAYAKING

There are four popular places with ADA accommodations to wet your line; one of them has a barrier-free kayak launch, too.

Tiscornia Beach Park, 80 Ridgeway St., St. Joseph. Roll out from the parking lot onto the North Pier. Join other anglers reeling in Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Steelhead plus Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Channel Catfish, Freshwater Drum and Yellow Perch.

Rollable Downtown Shopping St. Joseph

Riverview Park, 2927 Niles Road, St. Joseph. When you enter this 107-acre city park located on a bend of the St. Joseph River, take the first dirt road on the left. Park and wheel up to fish on the river's bank. Bring bait and lures for Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Channel Catfish and Flathead Catfish.

Carronde Park, 2650-2698 Riverbend Drive, Benton Harbor, is just across the St. Joseph River. In the spring time, you can enjoy their newly installed accessible kayak launch, too.

Paw Paw River County Park, 650 N. Main St., Watervliet. This tranquil park is one of Berrien County's newest and it was designed with your accessibility in mind. There are hard-surface hiking trails, a bridge to a river island, fishing access and a barrier-free kayak launch so you can fully enjoy this scenic setting. If you bring your pole, the Paw Paw River has 39 fish species including Walleye, Bass, Bluegill, Black Crappie and Northern Pike.

3 ACCESSIBLE PLACES TO PLAY AND FEEL THE MAGIC

Whether you are in a stroller, wheelchair or cruising with another mobility-assisted device, there are four places that delight all ages in St. Joseph.

Curious Kids' Museum at 415 Lake Blvd. and Curious Kids' Discovery Zone in the Silver Beach Center, at 333 Broad St., feature more than 100 interactive activities and exhibits to spark your child's imagination and a love of learning. Toddlers to young teens with all abilities will not be in a hurry to leave these facilities made just for them.

Whirlpool Compass Park is a giant splash pad below the bluff on Broad Street. It creates free, refreshing water play from Memorial Day until the end of September.

Silver Beach Carousel at 333 Broad St. is a year-round gem. It has 48 hand-carved and painted figures plus two chariots that are magical to ride whether you are 1 or 100 years old. The Serpent Chariot is wheelchair accessible and earplugs are available to anyone with sensory sensitivities, so you can experience firsthand why this is billed as the happiest place in Southwest Michigan.

ROLLABLE DOWNTOWNS

One of the reasons you will like rolling into St. Joseph and Benton Harbor are the sidewalks. The downtown St. Joseph sidewalks connect you to shops, restaurants, winery tasting rooms, breweries, historic neighborhoods and art galleries. Many of these places also have parking spaces outside their doors.

St. Joseph's sidewalks also lead to the shaded Lake Bluff Park and the John E.N. Howard Bandshell where there are farm markets, music, art fairs and more. Or take these walkways down the bluff to Margaret Upton Arboretum along the St. Joseph River. Or use the paved ramp by the covered stairs to reach Silver Beach Pizza, the Amtrak train station and all of Silver Beach's fun spots.

Another sidewalk friendly destination is Benton Harbor's Arts District. Here you can easily access indoor and outdoor venues for art, music, theater, dance and some of the region's most-talked-about craft brews and locally sourced foods served up on small and large plates.

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SENSORY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

When you or someone you love is neurodivergent, you want to vacation where you feel welcome and comfortable. In Southwest Michigan you will find an array of sensory friendly activities. The places we listed below are easy to leave if you or your loved one discover you are not comfortable there. Here are some places and activities to consider when planning your visit.

LOW-STIMULATION ACTIVITIES

BREATHE IN NATURE AT FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN AND NATURE PRESERVE

This is a favorite destination for many individuals and families. It offers fragrant flowers and herbs, a soothing water wheel, a bird-watching station, trails to wetlands, a pond, the St. Joseph River and a much-loved outdoor railway garden. The garden trails are paved, but the nature preserve trails are not wheelchair accessible. Bring your snowshoes in the winter.

FIND SERENITY WHILE YOU PADDLE OR PEDAL

You will find dozens of scenic places to paddle, from rivers and inland lakes to ponds and Lake Michigan. The best times to see wildlife along the banks or shores are early morning and evening. Paddling at sunset is soul-stirring all year.

If you don't own a kayak or SUP, Third Coast Paddling offers rental options on the Paw Paw and Galien Rivers and at Silver Beach County Park. Doe-Wah-Jack Canoe Rental provides canoe and kayak rentals for trips on the Dowagiac River. Scooter Joe's Wheel & Water Rentals is your one-stop-shop for street-legal golf carts to bike surreys, bicycles, kayaks, Lily Pads, pontoon boats and beach wagons for towing your beach gear.

HIKING TRAILS - QUIET AND BEAUTIFUL ALL YEAR

All four seasons are gorgeous on Southwest Michigan's trails. Whether you enjoy strolling through the woods, a rigorous dune climb, shifting gears on a twisty mountain bike trail or gliding across a sparkling winter wonderland on cross-country skis, you will make sensory friendly memories here.

STARGAZING AT DR. T.K. LAWLESS PARK — AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK

Stargazing may not be the first thing you think of for a sensory friendly outdoor activity, but it's difficult to surpass. You do not need a telescope or other equipment, just your eyes and a comfortable place to sit — a blanket or lawn chair works. Gazing up at the stars, planets and meteors has many sensory benefits, such as experiencing no light pollution and the peaceful quiet. We are fortunate that one of the best places to see the night sky in the Midwest is Dr. T.K. Lawless County Park, an International Dark Sky Park.

U-PICK FARMS AND MARKETS

This sensory friendly activity is one of our favorites from spring through fall (you also can choose your holiday tree in the winter). Southwest Michigan is nationally renowned for the variety of foods we grow. Many of our farmers welcome visitors to their orchards, fields and farm stands. Even the pickiest eaters will agree that a sun-ripened Michigan strawberry, cherry, peach, pear or apple is sweeter, juicier and tastier than store-bought. There is also nothing to compare with choosing your own fresh-harvested vegetables or, in the fall, hefting the plumpest pumpkin from the field to bring home and carve.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES - SENSORY-INCLUSIVE SPACES AND ACTIVITIES

Our local libraries take great pride in being some of the most sensory-inclusive spaces in Southwest Michigan. Lincoln Township Public Library in Stevensville, is a Kulturecity® certified Sensory Inclusive™ venue. When you arrive, go to the circulation desk and request a sensory bag with fidget toys and headphones. This library hosts sensory friendly movies and other activities. It also has a quiet zone and a headphone zone to accommodate each visitor's changing needs.

St. Joseph's Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library is a tranquil, calming place, especially on rainy or busy beach days. Ask at the circulation desk for a sensory bag. In it, you will find four social stories, a weighted blanket, headphones, sunglasses, fidget toys, Picture Exchange Communication (PECs) cards, a rainmaker toy and a bubble motion toy to entertain or draw your child into interactive play with your child. When needed, you and your child can escape to a designated quiet room or area.

7 Ways to Push Your Senses

1. Attend the Berrien County Youth Fair
2. Travel back in time at Eden Springs Park
3. Race Go-Karts at Hidden Pointe
4. Attend an outdoor concert
5. Discover where hard cider meets bowling at Peat's Cider Social
6. Take in the buzz of the crowd when you eat indoors at Silver Beach Pizza
7. Run through one of five area splash pads

CHALLENGE *YOUR* SENSES

When you or your child thrill at being in a high-stimulation environment of flashing lights, loud sounds, intense smells or lots of action, try these seven exciting activities.

SHARE YOUR SENSORY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES
As you know, it can be a challenge to find sensory friendly activities when you travel. Help us spread the word by posting your experiences with **#swmichigan**. We want you to find life's simple joys when you are here.

Hidden Pointe
Benton Harbor

EDEN SPRINGS PARK

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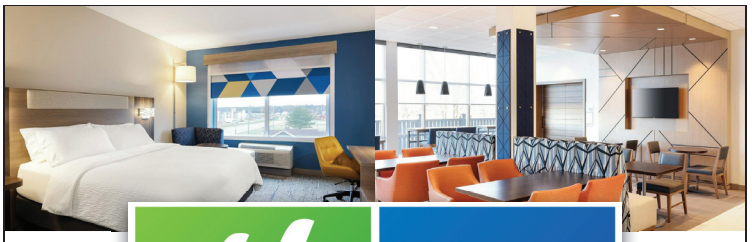

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WE ARE PET FRIENDLY

Our laid-back vibe welcomes your dog to splash in the waves on our pristine, Lake Michigan coast. Hike miles of trails that follow picturesque rivers and cut through quiet woods. Wander into quaint shops or frolic at festivals in our lake resort towns. Let your furry best friend tag along as you sample handcrafted wines, beers, ciders and spirits on the Southwest Michigan Makers Trail. Together, you will make memories to last a lifetime.

7 TIPS FOR A STAY WITH YOUR PET

1. Make sure your pet is up-to-date on vaccinations. With so many places to visit, your pet will likely encounter other people and their animals. We want all of our four-legged friends to stay healthy.
2. Keep your pet close with a six-foot or shorter leash. The one exception is our designated leash-free dog parks. There, you are expected to be in control of your pet at all times.
3. NEVER leave your pet in a vehicle during warm temperatures.
4. Clean up after your pet. You will find free pet waste bags in marked dispensers throughout downtown St. Joseph, Lake Bluff Park, the John and Dede Howard Family Recreational Trail and in other communities.
5. There are doggy drinking fountains located in our parks and beaches. On hot days especially, carry water and a bowl to keep your pet hydrated.
6. Heed all posted warnings and flags along the shorelines and beaches — high waves, rip currents and undertows are unsafe for pets and their people.
7. Look for the pet-friendly decals at the entrance to area businesses to tell at a glance where your pet is welcome.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN TOURIST COUNCIL

SWMICHIGAN.ORG HAS A *WEALTH* OF INFO

While there is a lot of information within these pages, there is just too much to see and do here in Southwest Michigan to include it all.

The Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council has a website to dive into even more details.

EVENTS
You'll discover an up-to-date calendar of events as they are added. You can search for a specific event name or narrow the search to the particular time frame you'll be visiting. As you plan your vacation, be sure to look at these regularly updated events in Southwest Michigan.

THINGS TO DO
With our vast area and diverse region, we have so many recreation and outdoor opportunities. You'll find a complete list of parks, beaches, and activities to enjoy the outdoors.

You'll also find a list of even more attractions that visitors enjoy as well as a list of entertainment options. For those who love to shop, you'll want to peruse the listing of "shoptions."

FOOD & DRINK
While we've showcased many of the restaurants and makers of adult beverages, we've barely scratched the surface. The complete online list has much more information on each, such as wheelchair accessibility and pet-friend locations. There are so many tasting adventures awaiting you.

PLAN & STAY
From finding a place to stay, to suggesting itineraries and planning events, swmichigan.org has all the information you need. The Tourist Council is eager to help you make the most out of your stay.

Contact The Tourist Council

2300 Pipestone Road
Benton Harbor, Michigan
(conveniently at I-94 Exit 29)
269-925-6301

SWMICHIGAN.ORG

Visit the website for the most up-to-date information and complete listing for each category.

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TOURIST COUNCIL MEMBER HOTELS

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INN AT HARBOR SHORES
800 Whitwam Dr, St. Joseph
269-983-1111
info@innatharborshores.com
Overlooks St. Joseph Harbor; offers championship golf, marina, spa, trails and restaurants.

KINGS INN
2063 Pipestone Rd, Benton Harbor
269-605-0033
Great value, children/teens under 17 years stay free.

MARK III INN
4179 M-139, St. Joseph
269-281-0329
Bob@markiiinn.com
Small hotel close to beaches, fishing, wineries, breweries, festivals, fairs and more.

QUALITY INN & SUITES
1598 Mall Dr, Benton Harbor
269-925-1880
noble13llc@gmail.com
All beds are queen or king size, free continental breakfast, near beaches, shopping and food.

RED ROOF INN
1630 Mall Dr, Benton Harbor
269-927-2484
i0043@redroof.com
Short drive to stores, restaurants, farm markets and beaches. Off-season rates, Oct.1-May 1.

RODEWAY INN
2723 Niles Ave, Saint Joseph
269-982-3333
Quick drive to Lake Michigan beaches and entertainment, walk to restaurants and stores, Free coffee available.

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269-465-6933

SILVER BEACH HOTEL
100 Main St, Saint Joseph
269-983-7341
gm@thesilverbeachhotel.com
Views of the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan, walk to shops, beaches, restaurants and festivals.

SPRINGHILL SUITES
1255 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor
269-338-8300
springhillbh@gmail.com
Stylish, roomy suites; complimentary, hot, healthy breakfasts, close to the arts and shopping.

STAYBRIDGE SUITES
1275 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor
269-371-0000
staybridgebh@gmail.com
Spacious suites come with fully equipped kitchens, close to beaches, wineries & breweries

SPARK BY HILTON STEVENSVILLE
5050 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville
269-588-1996
Conveniently located off I-94, we're a short distance from local shops and restaurants.

SUPER 8 - BENTON HARBOR
1950 E. Napier Ave, Benton Harbor
269-926-1371
super8bh@gmail.com
Newly renovated! Close to grocery stores and restaurants, children up to 12 years stay free.

SUPER 8 - STEVENSVILLE
4290 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville
269-429-3218
stevensvilleinn@gmail.com
On-property restaurant, special weekly (Sept.-May) and off-season (Labor Day-May 10) rates.

TRU BY HILTON
2683 W. Marquette Woods Rd, Stevensville
269-429-4444
sbnsj_tru@hilton.com
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